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THE TIMES

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MONDAY MAY 13 1996

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The best courses

- Keep ahead of the field
- Make the best of yourself
- Open season at Oxbridge

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Here comes summer

Get into shape with a change of diet. PAGE 16

Win health care in a prize draw PAGE 39



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Cup Final: Cantona's amazing season from trouble to double PAGES 23, 27



Foreign governments grade campuses

Top universities forced into new Ivy League

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

A BRITISH Ivy League of elite universities is beginning to emerge as foreign governments operate "whitelists" of campuses to which they are prepared to send students.

Four years after the Government uprated polytechnics to create a single higher education system, such lists are combining with developments at home to open up new divisions and threaten the equal status traditionally accorded to all university degrees. In some subjects, only a handful of British institutions have been judged good enough to join the rollcall of international excellence.

The practice of grading universities is spreading rapidly among developing nations worried about the widening quality gap in Britain. This could have a devastating effect on some universities which rely on the full-cost fees paid by overseas students.

At the same time, student preferences, funding changes and employers' attitudes at home are having such an impact that a premier league is likely to be in place by the time Sir Ron Dearing reports on British higher education next summer.

Employers are increasingly selective about the universities from which they will recruit for fast-track training schemes. Many have abandoned the "milk round" of interviews, targeting highly-rated departments for their graduates.

Young people, too, have become more discriminating, with the leading traditional universities increasing their market share. Top-rated universities — such as Cambridge, Oxford and London's Imperial and University colleges — have seen their share of national applications increase by up to a quarter this year, while the more unfashionable

institutions have seen applications halved as a result of the new rules limiting students to six choices of institution, rather than eight.

The same minority of traditional universities also dominate official teaching and research ratings, which are likely to be used more and more to determine funding. And with budgets stretched to breaking point, vice-chancellors fear that this could lead to the quality gap widening dramatically.

Analyses in *The Good University Guide*, which will be published all this week in *The Times*, show that only 14 universities achieved more than one top rating for both teaching and research in the first 15 subjects to be assessed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. Cambridge scored the maximum in all ten areas in which it was assessed, and Oxford matched the feat in seven.

A top rating for research can mean a difference of £250,000 a year for a science department, and the benefits will grow if a fund to develop research in new universities is phased out. The funding councils are also examining how to reward departments that do well in the teaching ratings.

But a growing number of foreign governments have already decided on a more selective approach. In Singapore, the Government has restricted the number of degrees it will recognise in medicine, law and engineering. Malaysia and Mexico are among the others to follow suit.

This could have an enormous impact as 150,000 overseas students come to Britain each year, producing more than £1 billion in invisible earnings, and a number of universities could not do without students from Singapore and Malaysia.

Singapore recognises medicine degrees from only 20 universities in the world, five of them British: Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Oxford and London. British-educated lawyers who wish to practise on the island must have their degrees from one of 15 "scheduled" universities and even Liverpool, Sheffield and Warwick — where teaching is officially rated as excellent — are excluded.

Singapore's Professional Engineers Board recognises more than 50 British universities, although first-class honours are required from the 12 former polytechnics on the list.

In Mexico, the Padron List, drawn up by the government body responsible for research, determines where state scholars may study abroad. Several new universities have lobbied unsuccessfully for inclusion.

Other countries operate unpublished "whitelists" in a number of subjects. Malaysia, which sends more than 8,000 students to Britain, exercises tight control on the destination of government-sponsored students, with as few as nine universities approved in some subjects.

A funding council report on postgraduate education, to be published on Wednesday, will examine the issue in detail. Professor Martin Harris, the Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University, who chaired the review, said: "These lists exercise a very powerful influence. They are a sign of other countries making explicit judgments that tend to be made only informally here."

Leading article, page 19
The Good University Guide, pages 36, 37



Casper Berry, 22, an anthropology student and part-time writer, was at Cambridge yesterday while a film company was seeking buyers for his film *Downtime* at the Cannes Film Festival. Page 5

Crew may have died before jet plunged into swamp

By QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK AND HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE crew of an ageing DC-9 airliner may have been dead or unconscious before their jet plunged into the Florida Everglades killing all 109 on board, including two British tourists.

The pilot for the cut-price domestic airline ValuJet told air traffic controllers that the cockpit was filling with smoke minutes after he took off from Miami for Atlanta.

As he turned back towards the airport, witnesses say the 27-year-old aircraft made a series of irrational manoeuvres, banking sharply then straightening and flying at an angle of 75 degrees into the alligator-infested swamp.

Rescuers yesterday gave up hope of finding survivors and were unable to locate anything more

Jet disappears into the mud of the Everglades Page 3

than fragments of the jet, which had recently suffered engine troubles. The two Britons were named as Roger and Devlin Loughney but identities of the other passengers and crew were being withheld until relatives were informed.

Teams trying to recover the aircraft's flight recorder, which had a radio beacon, were hampered by the muddy and inhospitable terrain where the jet crashed on Saturday, 30 minutes after take-off.

Attempts to build a road across the swamp were abandoned and rescuers were considering trying to drain the land to reach the site.

Investigators want to recover the bodies of the crew and passengers to establish whether they were wearing oxygen masks and if their lungs contained enough smoke to have caused them to black out. A fire could have been caused by an electrical fault.

The crash will raise serious doubts about the safety of old jets being used by cut-price airlines and could slow down the development of similar services in Europe.

Israeli guns hit Hezbollah

Five Israeli soldiers were wounded by Hezbollah fighters in southern Lebanon, the first casualties since the US brokered ceasefire came into effect. Within hours, Israeli artillery pounded Hezbollah targets north of the security zone.

With less than three weeks before the electorate goes to the polls in Israel's bitterly contested general election, the resumption of violence along the last active Arab-Israeli front is set to become one of the central issues. Page 13

Handgun ban

The Government is facing renewed calls to ban handguns in the aftermath of the Dunblane massacre. Labour has proposed to ban up to 200,000 firearms. Page 6

Clarke says £1 billion beef crisis could stop tax cuts

By JILL SHERMAN AND ANDREW PIERCE

KENNETH CLARKE last night gave his toughest warning yet that he may not be able to deliver tax cuts in this autumn's Budget after claiming that the beef crisis had already cost the Government at least £1 billion.

The Chancellor argued that the slaughter of calves over 30 months had severely restricted his scope for tax cuts which are in jeopardy due to higher than expected public borrowing and a mistake in tax revenue forecasts.

The cost of slaughtering cattle would come out of the £2.5 billion Treasury reserve but would make tax cuts next year "one billion pounds less likely," he said on Radio Scotland's Eye to Eye.

In a series of interviews Mr Clarke infuriated the Tory Right by suggesting that the Government should protect

spending on health, education and the police rather than "bribe" the electorate with tax cuts. Ignoring the recent clamour for 2p tax cuts to turn round the Tories' fortunes, he argued that elections were not won and lost on tax reductions.

"Those who believe that if I took a penny off income tax we might just about have a photo-finish to the election and with a working majority and with threepence off we'd have a working majority. I think are treating the British public as idiots."

He admitted that the Government had made a "genuine mistake" at the last election by committing itself to tax cuts, and then getting into debt and having to put up taxes.

"I inherited the job of putting up taxation and we hurt people and they remember those promises and they



"Forget the steak, I'll just have an omelette"

Continued on page 2, col 1

Beef tops agenda, page 12
Leading article, page 19

Tricolour welcome for United's hero

By ROBIN YOUNG

AT LEAST 100,000 Manchester United fans lined the victorious team's route through the south of the city yesterday as they brought home the FA Cup. French tricolours in tribute to Eric Cantona's 85th minute goal, outnumbered banners in the red, white and black of United.

Flag sellers did a roaring trade and the top-selling items, even at £5 each, were flags proclaiming "Eric the King". The crowd was 20 deep in places, and fans climbed trees, lamp-posts and bus shelters to get a view.

Flag-waving fans in carnival mood began lining the route, which took the team bus within a few hundred yards of the United ground, several hours before the victory parade began.

Children with their faces painted red and white perched

on their fathers' shoulders and police outriders were required to clear a path for the team's open-topped bus.

Cantona was the name on everyone's lips but there was acclaim too for Alex Ferguson and his achievement in bringing Manchester United three League championships in four seasons and a record ninth victory in the FA Cup. The club's feat of achieving the double of the FA Cup and the League for a second time is unprecedented.

Today Wembley stadium officials and the Football Association will be studying video footage of incidents which marred the presentation of the Cup, when Liverpool supporters appeared to spit at Cantona and throw a punch at Alex Ferguson.

Hooligan control, page 8
Cup final, pages 23, 27

Hall of hope and glory wins £40m lottery money

By ALEXANDRA FREAN MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Albert Hall, the home of the Proms, pop concerts and sporting events, is expected to receive £40 million of lottery money this week from the Arts Council and the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

The grant will bring the total amount of lottery money awarded to good causes to £1.5 billion but is likely

to be boosted by £17 million raised by the Albert Hall, will enable the first major refurbishment of the building which was the brainchild of Prince Albert and built with the proceeds of the Great Exhibition of 1851.

The work is expected to include returning the top balcony to its original use as an art gallery and improving the line of vision of around 500 of the balcony seats. More space will be created for the public to

circulate. A basement space is likely to be built to house service facilities and the acoustics are expected to be improved.

The lottery plan, which has been led by the Albert Hall's chief executive Patrick Deuchar, is also expected to include the building of new restaurants, cafes, shops and hospitality rooms. Mr Deuchar wants to open the building during the day as an arts centre.

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THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TUESDAY

THE GOOD UNIVERSITY GUIDE

Student money: grants, loans and holiday jobs
PLUS: Here Comes Summer, part 2: the feel-good diet

WEDNESDAY

HERE COMES SUMMER

Beauty on the beach
PLUS: Win a £1,600 PC in Interface

THURSDAY

FILMS

Geoff Brown on the controversial *Kids*
PLUS: The best of books

FRIDAY

POP

David Sinclair goes on the road with AC/DC
PLUS: Smart holidays guide

SATURDAY

HOT TOPICS

Thirty pages of food, drink, fashion and style in the Magazine
PLUS: Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide

EVERY DAY THIS WEEK: COLLECT TOKENS FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN EURO 96 TICKETS

McGuinness hint raises hopes of a new ceasefire

By NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MARTIN MCGUINNESS, Sinn Féin's chief negotiator, signalled yesterday that the IRA was considering a renewed ceasefire to allow republicans to join all-party talks on June 10.

Amid intense speculation about the IRA's strategy, Mr McGuinness said he would call for a new ceasefire if John Major gave an assurance that the talks would be "real and meaningful". He insisted that the Prime Minister should also give an undertaking that the arms issue would not hold up talks and that Unionists would not be allowed to block progress.

Mr McGuinness, who is respected by IRA hardliners, said on ITV's *Jonathan Dimbleby* programme "if the British Government are prepared to say that, and if the British Government are prepared to accept the reality that the decommissioning issue isn't going to be resolved that easily... then I think that we can go again to the IRA and attempt to persuade them."

He added that the IRA were "open to persuasion" and that he "desperately" wanted to see a new ceasefire. He said: "If there are to be real and meaningful peace negotiations... beginning on June 10, then I am passionately of the opinion that they must take place in a peaceful atmosphere. That means securing a second IRA ceasefire."

Mr McGuinness also held out hope when he gave a guarded welcome to the suggestion by Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, that disarmament should be discussed separately from the main talks.

There is considerable uncertainty on both sides of the Irish border about the IRA's intentions. Senior members of the Irish Republic's opposition Fianna Fáil party, who have had regular talks with Sinn Féin, are understood to be pessimistic about the chances of a renewed ceasefire. They were told that senior republicans are wary of being sucked into a process dominated by Britain and the Unionists.

A total of 24 parties will contest the May 30 Ulster election to a 110-member forum. Parties elected to the forum will appoint delegates to the all-party talks.

Mr McGuinness took the delighted pensioners aside to confide in them about the other battle he has to wage every day. They chuckled as he said: "This morning I told my wife that I hoped she was not going to be hard on me today. She told me to shut up, and so I told her that if only people



The Rev Ian Paisley campaigning in Larne yesterday

Paisley hits the campaign trail

THE Rev Ian Paisley's cavalcade swept across Northern Ireland over the weekend: the Democratic Unionist leader has begun campaigning for this month's elections for all-party talks well ahead of his political rivals (Nicholas Watt writes).

In the centre of Coleraine, Co Londonderry, on Saturday afternoon, a beaming Mr Paisley made for white-haired ladies as they did their shopping. "Hallo ladies," Mr Paisley declared as he handed out his party leaflet. "I will feel so much better if you give me the kiss of life on May 30 to fight the battle."

Mr Paisley took the delighted pensioners aside to confide in them about the other battle he has to wage every day. They chuckled as he said: "This morning I told my wife that I hoped she was not going to be hard on me today. She told me to shut up, and so I told her that if only people

Watchdog calls for inquiry into jail brutality

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE board of visitors at Wandsworth jail in south London is calling for an urgent Home Office inquiry into increasing allegations by inmates of assault and bullying by prison officers.

In its annual report to the board, an independent watchdog appointed by the Home Office to check prisoners' conditions and complaints, says that in 1994 there were 93 complaints against staff, and last year the figure rose to 100 and involved 43 officers and 77 allegations of assault. One officer faced complaints from five different prisoners. Three officers each faced three separate allegations and a further three were each accused of two offences.

After monitoring complaints made by inmates against staff over the past two years, the board is urging Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to set up an investigation into conditions at the jail.

Officials have already told the board that complaints are treated seriously and investigated, but the visitors say they remain worried by the level of the complaints.

The Rev Martin Clarke, the board of visitors' chairman, said that the complaints first began to emerge three years ago. At the time no records were kept and the board arranged for them to be made after prisoners coming forward with allegations of brutality.

More than 80 of last year's allegations were later withdrawn or unsubstantiated, and only five led to formal action. Mr Clark said that it was difficult for prisoners to prove their cases and that no officer had been found guilty. He said prison officers did not have to answer questions and could simply make a statement denying that they had made the assaults.

The worst case involved a prisoner who said he was assaulted and had photographs to show the bruising. He said he was attacked when he was searched for drugs after a visit. However, he later began to change his story and the allegations were dropped.

Mr Clark said there was concern that weak and feeble prisoners might be picked on. On the other hand, many of the allegations arose from searches for drugs after visits and the prison officers said that the inmates became violent when confronted with drugs found on them.

The prison holds up to 1,690 remand and convicted prisoners.

Labour to spell out £1.5bn plan for young

Tony Blair and Gordon Brown will unveil a £1.5 billion package of proposals this week to eradicate youth unemployment and to give all over-16s access to education or training. The Labour leader will announce an ambitious deal for "Britain's lost generation" as part of a co-ordinated programme to combat youth crime and ensure that more youngsters stay on at school.

The package would be partly funded from a windfall tax on privatised utilities, although some money could come from Mr Brown's plans to scrap child benefit for 16 to 18 year olds, which would raise up to £700 million. Mr Brown will also give further details of his scheme to withdraw 40 per cent of benefit from youngsters who fail to take up one of four training or employment opportunities within four weeks.

Primary tests start

More than 600,000 11-year-olds will begin tests today intended to produce the first primary league tables next March. But the National Association of Head Teachers will advise members to urge school governors not to submit the results for publication. The union claims that the Government reneged on a commitment not to compile league tables until the tests had bedded down.

Church drug survey

Young people with a church upbringing are as likely to take drugs as those from non-Christian families, a survey published today says. Of more than 7,500 church-going young people questioned, nearly half of those offered drugs had tried them. The figures, from the Evangelical Alliance, a Christian umbrella group, are similar to those in secular surveys. There was little under-age drinking, however.

Simpson unabashed

O.J. Simpson played a round of golf in Surrey yesterday before the television interview tonight that has brought him to Britain. As Simpson set off from his London hotel he refused to be put off by questions about the murder of his wife Nicole, of which he was cleared. He laughed when a reporter asked: "Where were you on the night of the murder?", before speeding off in a chauffeur-driven car.

School row father dies

A man whose son was at the centre of a strike threat by teachers has died of a heart attack. Philip Wilding, 56, of Nottingham, right, was admitted to hospital after complaining of chest pains at his home and collapsing. He died at the Queen's Medical Centre. Teachers at Glaisdale Comprehensive called off their strike after refusing to teach Richard Wilding, 13, because of his disruptive behaviour.



Bradman breaks record

A cricket bat used by Don Bradman to score 212 against England at a Test Match in Adelaide in 1937 set a £23,000 world auction record when it was sold to an anonymous telephone buyer at Phillips in London yesterday. The bat, which was estimated at £300 to £500, was the high point of a sale built around the memorabilia of the late Brian Johnston, the BBC commentator known as Jonners.

Back in the tigers' den

The millionaire zoo owner John Aspinall playing in the tigers' cages yesterday for the first time in public since the death of a keeper at his Howletts wildlife park near Canterbury. Mr Aspinall has won an industrial tribunal case against Canterbury City Council, which wanted to ban keepers from entering tiger enclosures after Trevor Smith was mauled to death in November 1994.

Eight share jackpot

Eight tickets won a share of this week's National Lottery jackpot of £8.9 million, each receiving £1,115,190. A total of 16 tickets matched five balls plus the bonus ball, each winning £171,567. There were 1,766 winners who matched five balls for £971 each.

Beef bill may halt tax cuts

Continued from page 1

"grasped the nettle" on public spending.

Meanwhile Cabinet divisions resurfaced over Britain's negotiating tactics over trying to lift the European ban on British beef. While Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, signalled on GMTV's *Sunday* programme that he would back retaliatory action, Mr Clarke said he was opposed to "political gesturing" to solve the beef crisis.

On Wednesday, the European standing veterinary committee will vote on the European Commission's proposal to ease restrictions on beef products, including se-

Slaughtered cattle may be burnt at power stations

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BURNING the remains of cattle as fuel in power stations is being seriously considered by the Government because the animals can no longer be eaten.

Cattle over 30 months old, regarded as more likely to be infected with "mad cow" disease, are being slaughtered under a £630 million scheme to keep them out of the food chain and restore consumer confidence in beef. The Ministry of Agriculture expects the much-delayed scheme, which began formally on May 1, to become "fully operational" today. Up to 25,000 cattle will be killed every week.

Farmers said yesterday they wanted cattle to be killed at an even faster rate to clear the backlog of at least 150,000 unsaleable animals and enable them to start receiving compensation. Farmers will be paid on average between £480 and £800 per animal.

Bill Rodney, 49, a beef farmer from Healey, North Yorkshire, who was found dead outside a barn last week after apparently turning his shotgun on himself, was said yesterday by relatives to have been under stress because of uncertainty over the future of his herd.

Ken Rodney, the dead man's brother, said: "We have got a load of cattle over the age of 30 months but we still do not know when we will be able to get rid of them. It looks to me as if this was preying on Bill's mind."

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Doomed passengers bought cheap tickets for aircraft with history of engine trouble

Jet disappears in quicksand of the Everglades

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

FLECKS of white wreckage and some blackened grass in the marshlands of Florida were virtually all there was to show yesterday after the nosedive crash of a DC9 jet that killed all 109 people aboard.

Emergency workers, in a fruitless rescue exercise, were perplexed and appalled by a crash which has left almost no remains. It appeared that ValuJet Flight 592 either exploded into smithereens when it hit the ground on Saturday afternoon or was quickly sucked below the mud and waters of the treacherous Everglades. A few shards of fuselage measuring no more than six feet were all that was left of the aircraft.

Witnesses said that the doomed plane plummeted at a 75 degree angle. "It was terrible. Nothing could have survived that," said Daniel Muehlaupt, a local flying instructor who had been giving a lesson. "I thought it was doing a manoeuvre but it didn't pull up and, wham!" he said. Mr Muehlaupt flew immediately to the scene of the crash and his pupil Rick DeLisle used field glasses to search for survivors, but could see no one.

The crash was also watched by an angler, Chris Osoola. "I said, 'it's gonna crash' and then, boom!" he said yesterday. The impact threw up a massive, mushroom-shaped cloud of mud, smoke and spray.

A US Coast Guard helicopter en route from an airshow to Miami was in the vicinity and flew at once to the crash site. Lieutenant Commander Mark Feldman said: "We were really surprised at the lack of debris. We were told it was a DC9, but from what we saw we simply could not believe it. There was some clothing, nothing else, and nothing we could do." The 27-year-old jet, owned

A video that shows air crashes in slow motion was condemned as voyeuristic yesterday. *Air Disasters* has the same executive producer as the controversial *Police Stop!* videos. Some crashes are shown over and over again and there are scenes of military aircraft crashing into crowds at air shows. "How often do you need to show a crash? The whole thing is voyeuristic," said William Beckett, co-chairman of Seisafe, which was formed after the 1985 Manchester air disaster in which his daughter Sarah, 18, died. Fifth Estate Video, maker of *Air Disasters*, said the 48-minute video made important claims about air safety. "How can you get the message about safety across if you don't show crashes?"

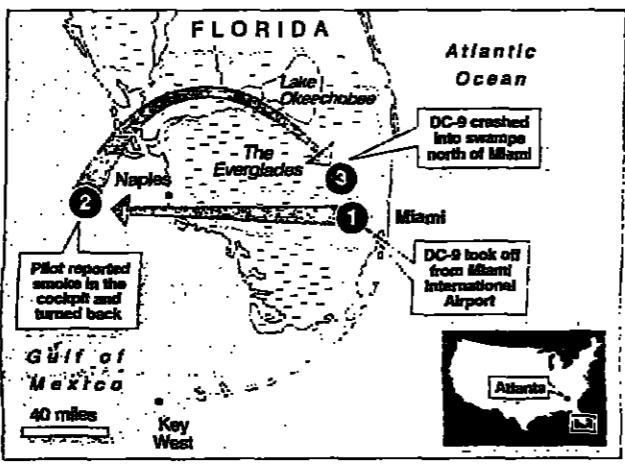
Miami the pilot reported smoke in the cabin. The plane vanished from radar screens at 2.25pm, 30 minutes after it left for Atlanta, Georgia.

Salvage teams were frustrated by the muddy terrain. The Everglades wetlands cover some 5,000 square miles of the land west of Miami and many parts are inaccessible. Robert Francis, of the National Transportation Safety Board, said: "This is not going to be the friendliest environment to do an accident investigation."

By yesterday afternoon workers had still to retrieve the DC9's "black box" flight recorder, which was equipped with a radio beacon. Bulldozers started to beat a path to the crash site to allow heavy-lifting machinery a chance to reach the area, but the road-building exercise had to be called off because of the marshiness of the land.

In many places the water was no more than three feet deep but the mud underfoot was thick and glutinous and threatened to suck men and machines under.

Amid the usual rituals of emergency helicopters, the evident distress of victims' relations and the heavy press presence, this air crash had the added elements of alligators, quicksand and the death of a minor celebrity. The passenger list for flight 592



A helicopter flies over the spot where the ValuJet DC9 went down in Florida. Below, helpless volunteers watch the sun set on the Everglades

showed that Rodney Culver, a running back with the San Diego Chargers American football team, had been on board.

Luis Fernandez, a rescue worker, said: "There were a lot of alligators and snakes in there and a lot of the debris is settling into the muck." He and other emergency workers were distressed when they came across a family photograph album and baby clothes. "We're all human and this is not easy on us," he said.

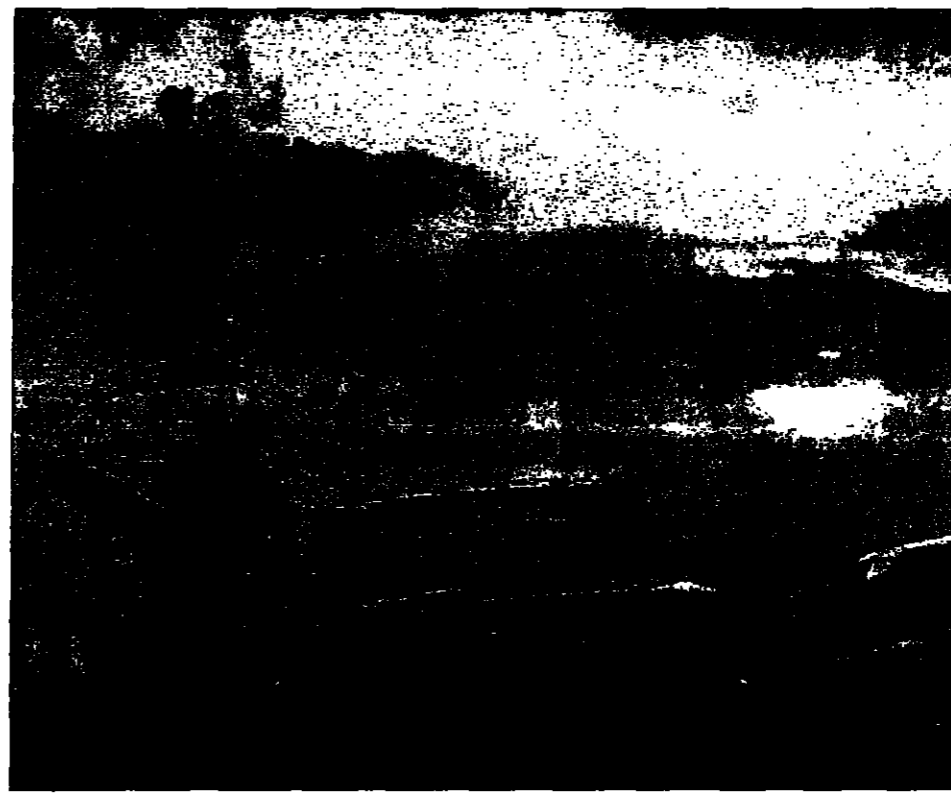
The luckiest man in the episode was Terry Huckabee, an Atlanta businessman who narrowly missed the flight. When he arrived late at the ticket counter he complained to the ValuJet ground staff: "I'm having a bad day. I missed my flight and I lost a dollar in the vending machine." A ValuJet check-in assistant said quietly: "No, you're the luckiest man alive."

At Atlanta airport, relations of those who had made it on to the flight were taken to a private room after news of the

crash was announced on the public address. Counsellors were on hand to comfort the bereaved. One man was so overcome that he collapsed, dropping the large bouquet of carnations he had bought to greet a loved one.

President Clinton offered his condolences to the victims' families from a White House still bruised by the death in an air crash of the former Commerce Secretary Ron Brown. "All Americans join Hillary and me in offering our hopes and prayers to the families and friends of those aboard the ValuJet," he said in a statement.

ValuJet has suffered a number of safety scares in recent months. In January another of its ageing DC9s hit a snow drift at Dulles Airport in Washington while a third plane became stuck in mud at Atlanta airport. In February a ValuJet aeroplane left the runway in Savannah, Georgia, and in March an emergency chute was activated on a ValuJet in Tampa, Florida.



Lifesaver earns precious reward

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A TAIWANESE millionaire showed his gratitude to the British couple who saved him from drowning by sending them his gold credit card with instructions to book a luxury holiday.

Howell Chou was spotted floating motionless in the Caribbean by Mel and Philippa Feldman. The 75-year-old, who owns a computer company in Taipei, had got into difficulties while swimming.

Mr Feldman, a barber from Bury, Greater Manchester, pulled the businessman from the sea and summoned medical help. "He was lifeless and the lifeguards began working on him," he said. "He coughed up a load of water but did not regain consciousness. He was given oxygen and stretched to the ship's hospital, then airlifted by helicopter to a hospital in Miami."

Mr and Mrs Feldman were on the same cruise as Mr Howell. The rescue happened while the ship was moored off the Bahamas. "The people he

was travelling with took my name and address and he contacted me some weeks later to say he had fully recovered and was back home," Mr Feldman said.

"He visited us in Bury to say thank you in person and brought us some lovely gifts. Then he invited us over and sent his gold card with a letter of authorisation so we could book a holiday at his expense."

The couple, who have just returned from their trip, spent five days in the Taiwanese capital where they travelled everywhere in their host's limousine. At a banquet in their honour they ate from gold plates with gold-tipped chopsticks.

From Taipei they flew to Hong Kong, Singapore and Bali. "It was a fantastic gesture of kindness. We had a wonderful time. It was something we would only have dreamed about in the past. We never expected he would be so kind. A phone call or letter would have sufficed."

Sky's the limit for romantic groom

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A BRIDEGROOM indulged in a long-held flight of fancy yesterday when he exchanged wedding rings with his fiancée in a 40-seater jet 2,000 feet above St Paul's Cathedral.

Milan Chhatrisha, 26, a commercial insurance underwriter from Leicester, married Komal, 24, according to the traditions of the Hindu wedding service. He said: "We had to get special flight permission to circle above the cathedral, but we wanted to get married precisely there because it is such a romantic location."

"I have been wanting to do this since I was a pupil at boarding school. It is a dream I have been waiting all my lifetime to fulfil. It is real fairytales stuff."

Traditional wedding fare replaced the in-flight menu but eating the three-tier wedding cake had to wait until the couple were back on the ground. The ceremonies were completed at a marquee at Coventry airport and at an

Indian restaurant in Leicester run by the bride's guardian. Mr Chhatrisha had flown to the airport by helicopter and his bride arrived in a white Rolls-Royce. They walked along a red carpet through an arch of flowers to the plane.

Rajesh Chouhan, who runs an Asian wedding service in east London, knows of one Indian from the sub-continent who hired a Boeing 747 for the service, but he believes that Milan and Komal have created a precedent for British-based Hindus.

The most lavish wedding of recent times was in January last year when three members of Britain's richest Asian family, the Hinduja, were married in Bombay. Sri Chand, 61, the head of the family who runs a £1 billion business empire, showered the 10,000 guests from 58 countries with 20 baskets of rose petals as they arrived at the Royal Western Turf Club. A staff of 1,200 served a vegetarian banquet.

Cat lover goes for broke in Greece

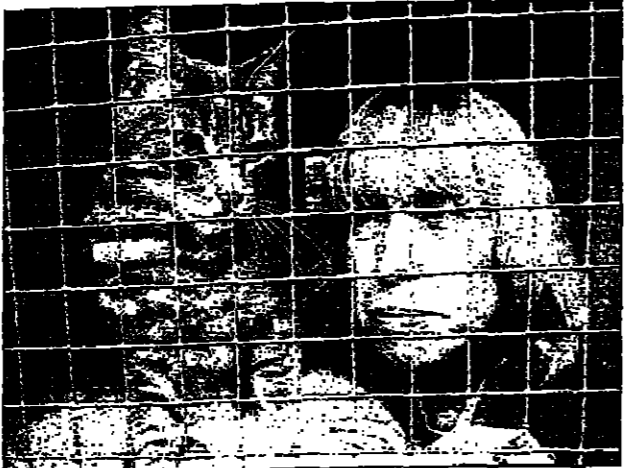
BY LIN JENKINS

A WOMAN who has devoted the past five years to the welfare of cats in Greece has spent the last of her savings to bring 37 of them back to Britain. Christina Morison, 45, scraped together every last penny to put the cats through six months of quarantine before finding new homes for them.

Many bear the battle scars of life on the streets of Athens. Two of them have only three legs, two are blind, and others have one eye.

Even with discounts for block bookings and another for compassion, Miss Morison is faced with a bill of more than £22,000.

The animals are spending their quarantine period to ensure they are clear of rabies in Marlborough, Wiltshire, and Maidenhead, Berkshire. They are housed three to a pen and tended daily. Miss Morison visits them



Christina Morison visiting one of the cats yesterday

from her home in Ealing, west London, at weekends, but in the week she is busy job hunting. The cattery fees and the air fares, albeit at a generous discount from Swissair, have seen her bank balance dwindle to nothing. Five years ago while on holiday in Greece she was

deeply moved by the plight of the country's cats. She abandoned her job as an analyst programmer at a market research company, let her home and set up a charity. The Greek Cat Welfare Society is now well established, sending British vets to the Greek islands to neuter cats as well

as financing veterinary care on the mainland.

"The main problem is that they don't neuter their cats," Miss Morison said. "They think it's against nature. They can't see an animal's sex life as being different from human sex life."

The problem of stray cats is compounded by a law forbidding the humane destruction of healthy animals, a ban on animals on public transport and expensive vets' fees.

Of the 37 cats - aged from ten weeks to 13 years when they arrived - 17 have already found homes to go to. Others will remain with Miss Morison. "I am still looking for homes for those I know would prefer living in households with fewer animals," she said.

The charity is now in the control of local cat lovers, and Miss Morison is returning to paid employment. "I came back because I have run out of money. The quarantine fees have taken the last of it."



When Harry met Molly...



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Pop id

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Johns made contact during film seminar

Tarantino a
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By DALIA ALLE...
SPIKE LEE, the director of the film 'Do the Right Thing', can provide a clear example of a director who is both a filmmaker and a social commentator. Tarantino, the American director, is another example of a filmmaker who is both a filmmaker and a social commentator. Lee said he had been in contact with Tarantino during a film seminar. Tarantino said he had been in contact with Lee during a film seminar. Tarantino said he had been in contact with Lee during a film seminar.



Robbie Williams, left, the former Take That star, was on the ball yesterday. The girls arrived in force to cheer their pop idols and saw the chart rivals Damon Albarn of Blur and Liam Gallagher of Oasis, right, forget their differences

Pop idols indulge their fantasy in charity football festival

By JOE JOSEPH

FOR those to whom the names Damon, Jarvis and Liam mean nothing, it was as if the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, the Who, and Gerry and the Pacemakers were all playing football together on a spring Sunday in 1965.

Some of the biggest names in music, including Oasis's Liam Gallagher, Blur's Damon Albarn and Jarvis Cocker of Pulp turned up at a sports stadium in east

London yesterday to play soccer for charity — and at the unusually early hour of 10.30am.

The Mile End Stadium was like Loaded magazine made flesh: just lads, footie, music, babes and booze. Not so much Men Behaving Badly, maybe, as just Men Playing Football Badly.

Albarn and Gallagher even made a show of walking hand-in-hand on to the pitch, sparking speculation of a Britpop reconciliation. But the way each of them

rushed off to sign autographs for the thousands of screaming teenage spectators whenever the other was in danger of hogging the limelight suggested that their gamesmanship might have been as astute as off the field as on.

Liam Gallagher is frontman to one of the world's biggest-selling bands. Oasis's following has swelled so dramatically that it has been forced to add a second autumn concert at Knebworth after selling out the first date

within hours and Gallagher milked the indulgence teen girls give to their hero of the moment.

In the absence of his brother and fellow Oasis-member Noel, Liam took on the full family responsibility of clowning, teasing and snubbing the crowd, of whipping the cap from a St John Ambulance man, of drinking beer and goofing around the pitch. He even managed to score a goal.

But while Oasis and Blur might rule the pop charts, they failed to

make as big a success of Britpop as that have of Britpop. Both bands — who requested that they should not face each other in the early rounds of the six-a-side contest for fear of inciting brawls among their rival fans — made a selfless contribution to law and order by both getting knocked out in the first round of the tournament, organised in aid of the Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy Centre.

Humiliatingly for Oasis, they were sent packing by Pulp after a

jet-lagged Jarvis ("I came back from holiday in Hawaii yesterday") came off the substitutes' bench at half-time, wearing a No 5 shirt. Cocker, looking like the spindly schoolboy who always gets picked last for any team, loped around the pitch like a man whose joints had not been securely bolted together. But his enthusiasm for the sport of common people made up for his lack of ball control.

Luckily, most band members kept their deepest thoughts on

victory and defeat to themselves, since those that did speak made most footballers sound like Wittgenstein. Robbie Williams, formerly of Take That, made sure that he was never knowingly under-quoted and seemed so desperate for pre-teen adulation that he visited different batches of screaming girls every seven minutes.

Albarn, who was the sole band member on his team, said: "The rest of the band aren't fit enough. They are not up to exercise."

Undergraduate plays down dramatic debut

FROM DALYA ALBERGE IN CANNES

A CAMBRIDGE student whose first screenplay has been snapped up by a leading British film company is sweating for his final while producers promote his work with stars at the Cannes Film Festival.

Casper Berry, 22, from Newcastle upon Tyne, is taking anthropology at Girton College, and few of his fellow students know of his other role. He said: "I don't talk about it much. It's boring when anyone goes on about their work."

His script *Downtime*, an "action love story", is to be filmed by Scala Productions with a £1.5 million budget. Previous Scala hits include *Scandal*, *The Crying Game* and *Mona Lisa* — which makes the company's commitment to an unknown student all the more extraordinary.

His talent was spotted by Richard Johns, 31, a producer who founded Pilgrim Films in 1994 with Bharat Nalluri, 31, as director. They made commercials and drama for television, including *Driven*, a 30-minute thriller for Tyne Tees, Yorkshire and Granada Television. Their work won awards from the Royal Television Society, among others.

Mr Johns, who approached Nik Powell of Scala Productions at a Newcastle film

seminar, recalled: "I just happened to walk him back to the station and I just happened to have a script with me. The three-hour trip from Newcastle to London was ideal."

Mr Powell said that he read it on the train and knew immediately that this was a talent to watch: "On the basis of his work to date, he is going to be a successful writer for the screen."

He described the script as a "contemporary emotional drama" set in a tower-block in northeastern England. An action sequence in a lift, he said, is "a nail-bitingly tense centrepiece. It's truly nerve-racking and will have you on the edge of your seat."

Scripts tended to fall into two categories — American-style action stories or character pieces — "but he has managed to combine them into a seamless, real story that is also very emotional and funny".

Downtime is the story of a single mother, who lives in an inner-city tower block, and a divorced police psychologist. They meet after she threatens to commit suicide by jumping from her window; he coaxes her down and their relationship develops.

Mr Berry, whose father is a doctor and whose mother trained as a teacher at the Central School of Speech and Drama, said that he wanted it to be a film about people whose lives are set against a background of crime, but who "live honest lives like 99 per cent of the population".

He researched it extensively, working with a housing association and studying criminology and epilepsy as background for various characters.

"I'm very keen for this to be seen as utterly real," he said. "But it's not a social document. I wanted it to be grounded in real psychology."

It will be filmed this summer for a release in the middle of next year.



Johns made contact during film seminar

Tarantino attacked for using N-word

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SPIKE LEE, the black American director who has often provoked racial debate on and off screen, yesterday attacked Quentin Tarantino, the white American director, for using the word nigger in his films.

Lee said he had counted 28 instances in *Pulp Fiction*, the violent crime movie starring John Travolta, and many others in such films as *Reservoir Dogs*. Lee said in *Girl 6* is receiving its world premiere: "I don't like his use of the word nigger. That word is not cool at all."

He said that he and Denzil Washington, the black American actor, had broached the subject with Tarantino. "I don't think he had really understood that the word is dangerous. Denzil and I explained it to him. I think he understands it now. Hopefully, in the future, he will not use that word." But he said that

despite his concern he had had no qualms about asking Tarantino to take a cameo role in *Girl 6*. "Quentin Tarantino is a very fine young director. My only problem is his use of the word nigger. One has nothing to do with the other."

Lee also attacked discrimination in the American film industry. "Look at the Academy Awards. This year, out of 166 non-foreign language Oscar competitors, only one went to a black artist."

For that reason, he said, he had sought only black financial backers for his next film, *Get on the Bus*, a \$2.4 million civil rights movie inspired by last year's *One Million Men March*.

Girl 6, the story of a young unemployed black actress who becomes an anonymous phone-sex operator, stars Madonna as the boss of the service. She has flown into Cannes for the premiere.



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Mayoress aged 14 keeps it in the family

A GIRL aged 14 is to be mayoress of a west Wales market town, keeping up a family tradition. Melanie Harries's great grandparents were mayor and mayoress three times, and her grandmother mayoress twice.

When Brian, her father, was elected Mayor of Narberth, Dyfed, he asked Melanie to be his escort.

Mr Harries is divorced from Melanie's mother so Melanie seemed the obvious choice. "I know she's young, but the job's in her blood," the 46-year-old officer worker said. "She's very mature for her age and I know she'll do me proud."

Melanie, who was presented with her chains of office last week and will attend her first function — the Mayor Making Ball — tomorrow, said: "I couldn't believe it when dad asked me. I thought the council might think I was a bit young, but everyone has been really nice. My friends didn't believe that I was going to be mayoress at first, but now they're all green with envy."



Melanie Harries trying out her chain of office with her school uniform

Labour gun review adds to pressure on Howard

BY ANDREW PIERCE

MINISTERS were under pressure from senior Tory MPs last night to bring forward laws on gun control to try to outflank the Labour Party, which today will publish proposals to remove up to 200,000 firearms from circulation.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has rejected the pleas and reiterated that any legislation would be delayed until after Lord Cullen's report on the Dunblane massacre in the autumn.

The Government is being urged to take action both by backbenchers who want immediate curbs and by those who are opposed to restrictions on the number of firearms but support a tightening of the licensing rules.

Ministers have submitted a list of 32 options to the Cullen inquiry, which begins at the end of the month. Labour will go much further today when Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, unveils proposals to ban all pistols and rifles above .22 calibre as well as automatic and semi-automatic weapons. Conservative

The Australian Government took 12 days to agree proposals to outlaw semi-automatic weapons and ban their import after a gunman slaughtered 35 people in Tasmania. It will be at least six months after the Dunblane shooting before any legislation is presented to the Commons. Critics argue that the Government is in thrall to the powerful gun lobby but ministers argue that they are opposed to knee-jerk reactions. The Government, unlike the Labour Party, appears to be reluctant to ban all handguns. About 57,000 people in England, Scotland and Wales have firearm certificates for handguns with 45,000 allowed to own more than one. The Government argues that many law-abiding owners use handguns for target shooting at clubs and should not be penalised.

Party strategists yesterday privately accused Labour of trying to take action both by backbenchers who want immediate curbs and by those who are opposed to restrictions on the number of firearms but support a tightening of the licensing rules.

Mr Howard yesterday denied that the Government had been wrong-footed by Labour or had acted too slowly. "We have not ruled out any course of action. We have put forward an exhaustive list of options. It would be extremely foolish to ask Lord Cullen to look at this, pre-empt it, and not wait for a conclusion."

Mr Colvin, chairman of the Commons Shooting Club, had a warning for the Labour Party. "Tony Blair should be aware that shooting is one of the most popular and fast-growing participation sports in Britain. There are two million people involved who

will not welcome having their guns removed," he said.

Mr Straw said that Labour's proposals could be amended if they were rejected by the Cullen inquiry. He told Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*: "There are too many handguns and weapons in circulation. We are not doing this for votes. We are doing it for public safety."

A spokeswoman for the Dunblane Snowdrop Appeal, which was set up to campaign for new gun laws, said: "Labour's proposals go right to the core. We need legislation to prevent another Dunblane."

Mr Howard yesterday denied that the Government had been wrong-footed by Labour or had acted too slowly. "We have not ruled out any course of action. We have put forward an exhaustive list of options. It would be extremely foolish to ask Lord Cullen to look at this, pre-empt it, and not wait for a conclusion."

The Prime Minister said on Friday that controls on semi-automatic weapons would be introduced after Lord Cullen made his recommendations in the autumn.

Heritage and aid stay ahead in charity stakes

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE National Trust remains Britain's most popular and prosperous charity, with a £76 million voluntary income and £20 million from investments, according to a report by the Charities Aid Foundation published today.

Giving to charities has increased by 2 per cent in real terms in the past two years, but income from trading activities such as mail order, cards and calendars has risen by 24 per cent.

Charity begins away from home for the British, whose favourite type of causes were international agencies, collecting £260 million — equivalent to 15p of every £1 donated last year. Cancer receives 12p, animal protection 7.6p and children 7.5p. Legacies rose by 2 per cent to £1 billion and now account for a third of all voluntary income, with the RNLI and RSPCA the clear favourites among will makers. However, bequests to educa-

tional causes fell by almost 20 per cent.

The report shows that only 14p in each £1 is spent on administration and fund raising although, among the most popular charities, that ranged from 21p at Help the Aged to 3p for the Salvation Army.

When asked why they might choose to support a particular charity, 87 per cent mentioned that it should make good use of the money it receives.

The biggest corporate donor was Glaxo, which made donations of £6.5 million from pre-tax profits of £1.8 billion. The most generous and wealthiest grant-making trust was the Wellcome Trust, which gave £240 million of its £5 billion assets.

NHS charitable trust funds, which are increasingly used to pay for equipment including theatre monitors, scanners and neonatal units, have seen donated income rise by 450 per cent in 11 years to £250 million in 1994.

Cathedrals are reported to be locked in a cash crisis as income for restoration appeals has more than halved in just three years from £11.2 million to £4.9 million.

Among famous landmarks which are unlikely to reach their appeal targets on time are St Albans, Lincoln, Canterbury, Westminster, and Chichester.

A minority of cathedrals, including Ely and Chester, have been so successful at fundraising that they are likely to complete their appeals ahead of target.

One of the problems is that cathedral restoration is so expensive that the public have to be persuaded to keep giving over a long period and their initial bursts of enthusiasm seem to dwindle.

The Charities Aid Foundation found that nearly half of cathedrals were running appeals, and studied 40 of them in depth. The report said: "It appears that campaigns lose some momentum through time."

The difficulty is illustrated by St Albans, whose appeal for £500,000 began nine years ago. After raising an average £24,000 for the first eight years, income fell to £8,000 last year.

British women do the most good works

BRITISH women put their continental counterparts to shame on voluntary work, says a survey. Among European women, 36 per cent of Britons have volunteered in the past year compared with 35 per cent of Belgians, 24 per cent of Irish, 17 per cent of Germans and 12 per cent of Slovaks.

The voluntary helper in Britain is said to be characteristically bossy and best likes to spend her time running jumble sales, bazaars or charity shops.

"Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland have common features that distinguish them in the wider European context," says Justin Davis Smith, head of research and information at the Volunteer Centre UK, which conducted the study.

Among men, 43 per cent of Dutch, 38 per cent of Swedes and 31 per cent of Britons were volunteers. The peak age was in their 40s and 50s, and 51 per cent said the main benefit was enjoyment.

More leave money to animal shelters

BY KYLE SMITH

MORE people are leaving money to animal welfare charities but individual bequests are becoming smaller.

Charities that care for animals have been the beneficiaries of steadily rising interest over the past few years. The total number of individual bequests to such charities has risen by 17 per cent since 1991.

The percentage of individual charitable legacies represented by those to animal groups has risen in recent years. In 1992, 14.3 per cent of such legacies named animal groups. By 1995, the figure had grown to 15.2 per cent. In 1991 there were 9,296 charitable legacies to animal groups in England and Wales; last year there were 10,890, according to

Bernard Sharpe, of Smees and Ford, the charity consultants.

Esme Berni of Bristol, widow of the businessman Aldo Berni, left more than £30,000 to ten animal charities last year, including £2,000 to the Donkey Sanctuary, the fifth largest such charity by expenditure, according to The Henderson Top 2000 Charities. Wood Green Animal Shelter received £30,000 from Mary Burton, a church organist from Cambridgeshire, who had set it aside for the care of her cat. The money went to the shelter when it died.

However, the total value of bequests to animal welfare groups fell slightly in 1995. Johnny Fountain, of the Animal Health Trust, said there seemed to be a trend towards smaller legacies.



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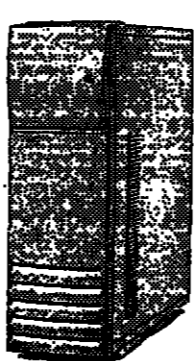
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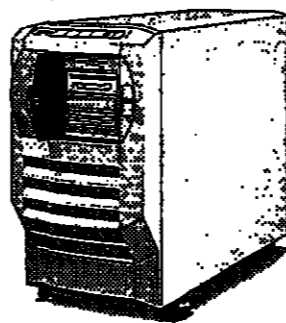
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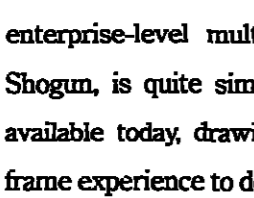
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The trainspotter now arriving is a class above the nerd

BY JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

COMEDIANS who like easy targets may have to look elsewhere: trainspotting is going up-market.

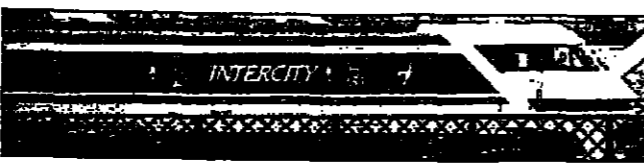
A fall in the number of young people taking up the hobby has been blamed on endless stereotypical portrayals of "nerds" in anoraks. But the change means that it is increasingly becoming a pastime dominated by mature people who can aspire to a luxury end of the market.

Affluent enthusiasts can shed any dowdy image by paying up to £125 a night to stay in a hotel where they eat, drink, sleep and trainspot in comfort within yards of the East Coast main line. The Sidings Hotel and Restaurant near Shipton, about five miles north of York, consists of five converted train carriages and a replica station and signal box.

Guests are encouraged to relax with their notebooks as about 100 freight and passenger trains a day thunder by the hotel's glass-fronted dining room and lounge bar. The 140mph track is even flooded at night, allowing guests to "spot" into the early hours with an after-dinner drink.

One of the regular guests, Colin Carrum, 57, a teacher from Nuneaton, Warwickshire, spends at least one night of each stay sitting in

TOP 'SPOTS' ON EAST COAST MAIN LINE



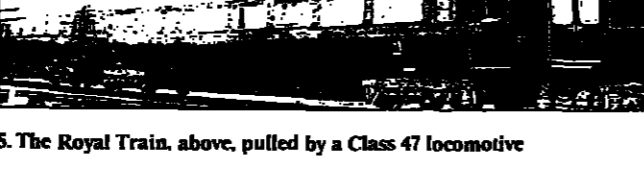
1. Class 91 InterCity 225 electric passenger train being pulled "blunt end first"



2. A Class 56-pulled "Merry Go Round" coal train, above

3. Class 60 heavy freight train

4. Red liveried Class 47 pulled Royal Mail "travelling post office" train



5. The Royal Train, above, pulled by a Class 47 locomotive

the lounge until dawn to watch freight and mail trains go past. He is so well known by drivers that they flash their lights at him.

"It has become much more a mature person's hobby," he said. "When I began as a schoolboy, it

was mostly school children and very few adults. Now there are very few children and mainly adults. But there has been no real loss to the whole body of rail enthusiasts."

It is even possible to trainspot

without getting out of bed. The hotel's room six is at the end of a carriage placed at right angles to the line so that the bed is just 12ft from passing trains. Mr Carrum said: "On the first night in there, you get very little sleep. On the second, you sleep a little better, and by the third you are totally exhausted."

Rates at the hotel range from £67 for dinner, breakfast and a single room, to £125 for a four-poster double. It is all the brain-child of Bert Gemmell, a 70-year-old retired railwayman, and his son Brian, a former army intelligence officer, who said: "We get very few anoraks here because the prices keep out the riff-raff. Numerous MPs have been here to dine, as well as celebrities such as Patrick Moore."

The menu includes delicacies such as roast wood pigeon - a far cry from the Marmite sandwiches of the classic trainspotter's lunchbox. A narrow-gauge railway is being built in the garden to carry beer barrels to the bar.

There is concern about youngsters losing their enthusiasm for the much-lampooned hobby. Murray Brown, the co-editor of *Rail Express* magazine, said: "The use of 'trainspotter' as a derogatory adjective is having quite an adverse effect and youngsters just don't want to get involved any more." Mr Brown, who has



Restaurant guest Paul Turner shares his enthusiasm with son Jamie, 14, at The Sidings

donated a number of relics from his railway memorabilia to the Sidings Hotel, added: "Railway enthusiasm covers a very broad church. Many people in the professional classes are into rail-

ways and certainly don't all wear anoraks and national health spectacles and have an IQ of about 12. "It is so unfair. It seems it is quite all right to walk around the countryside hitting small balls

into holes or go and sit on the bank of a river fishing in the rain, but if you are interested in trains you are ridiculed."

Leading article, page 19

Fans for whom Wembley score hit the hundreds

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

NOT everyone who travelled to Wembley for the FA Cup Final found it the dulllest afternoon's entertainment for years. For one select group, the Manchester United versus Liverpool tie lived up to all the hype and provided a day of non-stop action of a quality rarely to be enjoyed.

Beneath the feet of 79,000 fans flowing across Olympic Way to the stadium on Saturday, a cluster of coachspotters was camped out beside the flyover columns, oblivious to the supposed climax of the English football season.

"I couldn't care a tinker's cuss who wins," said Ivan Cottrell, 50, a spotter for 20 years.

"Well, to be honest, I do care a little bit because if it wasn't two northern clubs playing we wouldn't be here at all. It wouldn't be worth coming for London clubs, but this gives us a chance to see all the new Manchester and Liverpool M and N registrations."

Mr Cottrell, of St Albans, arrived four hours before kick-off - a Lancashire, Cumbria and Manchester bus hand-book in his Air New Zealand bag - to join two dozen colleagues meticulously noting the numberplates of Volvos and Scania's pouring into Wembley's vast car park.

Coachspotters, who prefer to be called "bus and coach enthusiasts", are often former trainspotters diverted on to the roads by the lack of new rolling stock. Connoisseurs prefer junior sports tournaments: adult

fans arrive in cars, but school-boys and girls cannot drive. "We'll get only 300 coaches today but you get about 500 for the kids' rugby, and there's none of this chanting nonsense," Alan Langhelt, 62, said. "We'll be off about 4pm. I'm not hanging around for this lot coming out."

Mr Langhelt, a retired engineer from Hounslow, west London, has been a coach-spotter since 1948 and works three hours a day as a London Buses traffic recorder. His weekday leisure is spent logging aircraft; at weekends he seeks buses and coaches.

He includes only vehicles of at least 17 seats with a green or blue Public Service Vehicle disc. Supplementing his notebook is a pocket computer and, at home, a laptop computer with 60,000 coaches in alphabetical order. Those he has seen are marked with an asterisk and the list is constantly updated to keep track of fleets that have changed hands and buses that have been re-registered.

He is a little dismissive of young spotters. "To be honest, some of them are just number-snatchers and don't know what they are doing. Very few use computers, which are a boon to our hobby."

"There is no end product, because new coaches come out each year. The aim is just to get as many as possible. Anything to avoid getting bored. I don't want to sit around in libraries all day reading newspapers like some old people."



A coachspotter filling his notebook at Wembley

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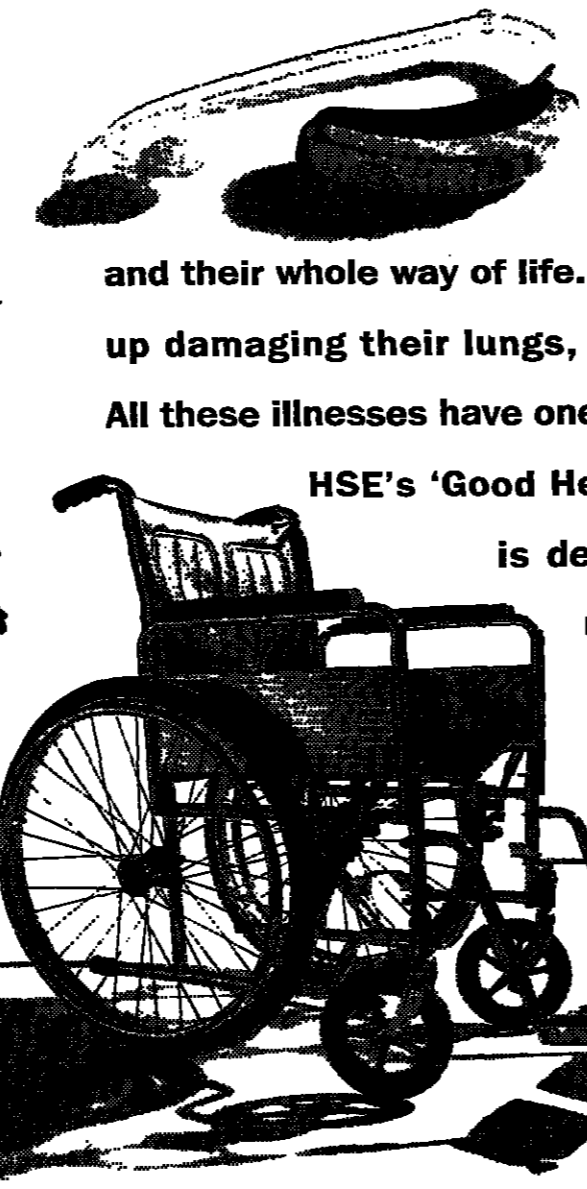
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Parents who blame pesticide for deformity wait to sue American maker

Blind boy's family fights for children without eyes

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

FORTY British families whose children were born without eyes are awaiting the outcome of a test case beginning in America today that will determine whether a garden pesticide caused the deformity in a six-year-old boy.

They will lodge claims if John Castillo Jr, who was born with empty eye sockets, is successful in suing the Dupont chemical company for \$20 million (£13 million). His parents claim that the congenital defect is a result of his mother being sprayed with the chemical pesticide, benomyl, which was used on a fruit farm near the family home outside Miami.

Benomyl is the active constituent of Benlate, which is widely used in Britain and around the world for spraying crops. It was sold for garden use in Britain until the company withdrew it last year.

Benomyl was banned in Australia 15 years ago after tests on rats.

A British expert on the condition, known as anophthalmia, said he would not allow his pregnant wife to be exposed to benomyl after research showed that rats fed large quantities produced foetuses without eyes. Richard Collin, consultant ophthalmic surgeon at Moorfields Eye Hospital and the Hospital for Sick Children at Great Ormond Street, London, said: "The last thing I would let my wife do is go into a greenhouse where benomyl was being sprayed. We know it is capable of producing animals without eyes and it would seem wise at the very least to limit the exposure of pregnant women."

Mr Collin, who has studied 150 babies born with the deformity over the past 15



Juveria Memon and her son Khalid, born with empty eye sockets, await the decision of the American court

years, said that it would be hard to prove a link with benomyl, however.

The case involving John Castillo, which is expected to last a month, is the biggest involving pesticides to reach the courts, according to Alan Care of Leigh Day and Co, the solicitor representing British families.

"It is going before a jury, instead of a judge, it involves millions of dollars and it is not about the abuse of a product but a straight fight on whether

it is capable of causing injury."

Mr Care has been working closely with American law firm James Ferraro, which has agreed to take British sufferers as "follow on" cases on a "no win, no fee" basis.

Juveria Memon, 38, whose son Khalid has been blind from birth, said she had never recovered from the trauma of having a baby with empty eye sockets. "Can you imagine phoning your mother to say you have had a baby but it's got no eyes?" Now aged 10,

Khalid complains about being unable to see. "What do I say to him? It was not an act of God, it was negligence."

When she was pregnant Ms Memon, who now lives in Cambridge, used to visit her mother-in-law every day in Harrow, northwest London, where Benlate was used in the garden. She says that use of the chemical should have been restricted once the tests on rats showed it was capable of producing the eye deformity.

"The foetus is extremely vulnerable in the early stages of development and the minutest amount of any toxin can cause damage."

A support group set up by Chris and Maggie Bourne, whose nine-year-old son Andrew is also affected, has 130 members.

A spokesman for Dupont in Britain said: "We are confident that if all the evidence is heard in a proper setting people will see that there is absolutely no link between Benlate and anophthalmia. Children, like other small mammals, need high-energy food. Despite this they are often denied sugar and sugary foods by parents who fear tooth decay. The evidence is that when children's teeth decay it is not because they eat jam roly-poly or treacle tart for pudding or because they have had the occasional sweet, but because they haven't brushed their teeth properly with a good-quality toothpaste twice a day. Fats are an essential part of the diet they are the best source of energy and they ensure that the system for the absorption of vitamins is efficient. Without adequate fat in the diet the body is less able to create the cellular

Muesli-belt diet causes danger across all classes



CAN the Health Department's rules for the adult diet be applied to the nursery without endangering a child's health? The BBC1 series *Watchdog Health-check* tonight reviews the diet of children from a wide variety of social backgrounds, and in consequence adds its support to the call for a return to traditional food.

The accepted view has been that muesli-belt mothers are confined to the middle-class areas of cities, but the research has shown that children are being deprived of the essential requirements of a good diet by health-conscious parents from all social classes.

Eighty per cent of the children studied were not being provided with the necessary fat, protein and carbohydrate. Instead, their digestive systems were being loaded with fibre, which has no energy value, contains no protein and inhibits the absorption of minerals and vitamins.

Children, like other small mammals, need high-energy food. Despite this they are often denied sugar and sugary foods by parents who fear tooth decay. The evidence is that when children's teeth decay it is not because they eat jam roly-poly or treacle tart for pudding or because they have had the occasional sweet, but because they haven't brushed their teeth properly with a good-quality toothpaste twice a day.

Fats are an essential part of the diet they are the best source of energy and they ensure that the system for the absorption of vitamins is efficient. Without adequate fat in the diet the body is less able to create the cellular

structure from which all its tissues are composed, does not manufacture hormones so effectively, does not have such an efficient immune system and does not readily absorb fat-soluble vitamins and many other necessary chemicals.

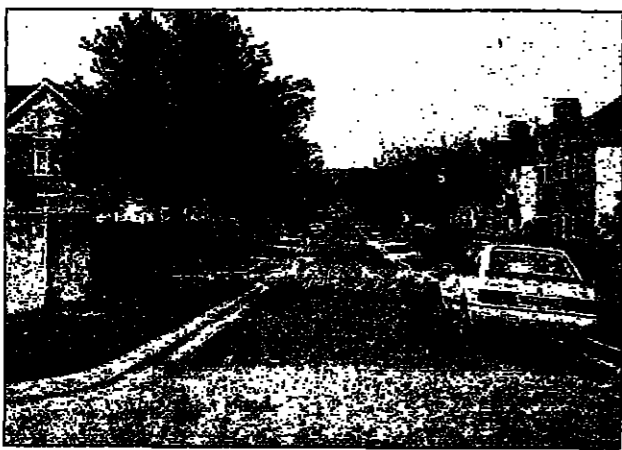
The diet of humans, whether children or adults, needs calcium, iron, copper, zinc, magnesium, selenium and a host of other trace elements. The body was designed to be omnivorous and there is no better way of obtaining these elements than through a good chop, other meat or fish or cheese. Iron is 20 times better absorbed when taken in the form in which it is found in meat than when it is obtained from vegetables. Meat eating, too, is the best way to provide a child with the amino acids essential for body building.

Britain has learnt from the dairy industry that the traditional, natural way of feeding can also be the least dangerous. Dr Jackie Sturdy and Dr Charlotte Wright, whose research formed the basis of the BBC programme, found that the overwhelming majority of the mothers investigated were giving their young children the wrong foods.

The health conscious risk bringing up children who are pale, listless and stunted and who would not have been out of place in the pre-war slums. If they want to give them the best start in life they should revert to feeding them with the traditional meat and two vegetables followed by apple Charlotte with cream or custard.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD.

A safer world seen through rose-tinted spectacles



The real world: a street viewed with normal vision

STREETWISE spectacles are being developed to give a clearer view of the world to the partially sighted. The computerised system can display objects such as trees and houses in single colours — all cars are pink — and highlight other dangers such as pavement edges with flashes.

Researchers at Bristol University are looking at different ways to present the images on spectacles in a virtual-reality headset. Trials will be carried out with volunteers from the city's Eye Hospital.

The joint project under Professor Barry Thomas and Dr Tom Troscianko carries forward earlier studies for robot vision, bringing together the university's departments of computer science and psychology. Tiny video cameras in the headset will send digitised pictures to a waist-belt computer, which recognises images from a databank of everyday objects, and then presents real-life scenes in a graphic montage. In the colour system, all houses are brown and the sky is blue.

The current system takes more than ten seconds to analyse an image, but expected advances in micro-processor technology should speed the process.



The virtual reality: the street seen by the computer

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Table with flight information including destinations like London, Manchester, and Glasgow, and times.

CHILDREN UNDER 13 STAY & EAT FREE

De Klerk accuses ANC of racist politics

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

F.W. DE KLERK, South Africa's National Party leader, has swung into action in his new role as leader of the Opposition, accusing President Mandela's African National Congress of being racist and vowing to woo disaffected voters by offering a better alternative to ANC rule.

The withdrawal represented a victory for party hardliners after internal conflict came to a head. A compromise was eventually reached that the National Party would vote for the Constitution, then withdraw from the Government.

ANC move: Cyril Ramaphosa is to resign as ANC Secretary General once the new Constitution is certified, the party said yesterday.

Mr Ramaphosa had previously said he would leave parliament to go into business but had added that he would stay in the ANC post. (AFP)

Ghana offers brief respite to Liberian refugee ship

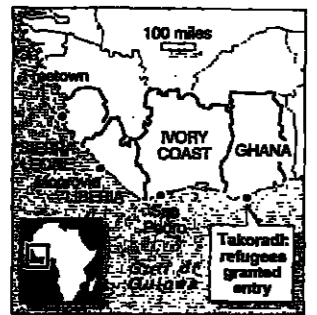
BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE

AFTER a week at sea, up to 4,000 sick and dying Liberian refugees on board the leaking, disease-ridden freighter Bulk Challenger found relief at last yesterday when the Ghanaian authorities gave them permission to dock at Takoradi.

The situation on board the freighter was unclear after a spokesman for Médecins sans Frontières, the medical charity, said 164 soldiers of Ecomog, the West African peacekeeping force in Liberia, were on board.

Another 1,500 Liberian refugees were yesterday aboard the fishing boat Victory River, which Sierra Leone ordered out of Freetown harbour, aid workers said.

The vessel sailed into Freetown on Saturday, but the authorities said it had no clearance to dock and ordered it to anchor 15 miles offshore, the aid workers said.



Vietnamese stage second Hong Kong camp revolt

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

A SECOND uprising by Vietnamese boat people again took Hong Kong security services by surprise over the weekend.

As a manhunt continued for 32 inmates who were among 119 to escape from Whitehead detention centre during a riot on Friday, the camp was hit by a second revolt involving 1,000 inmates.

It took 1,200 security men and 240 rounds of teargas to rescue a group of officers who had been beaten and robbed of their batons, shields and helmets. Hundreds of women and children again clambered on to the camp's huts and had to be manhandled down.

Although 180 Vietnamese, considered ringleaders of the disorders, were taken to Victoria prison. Charges will probably not be brought, because trials would delay their repatriation by over a year. Officials described the

camp as tense yesterday and 200 residents from nearby villages demonstrated outside to indicate their fear of escapees, even though none of them has been attacked.

They carried placards urging the Government to scrap its policy of allowing Vietnamese refugees to land in the colony.

They also said it was Britain's responsibility to settle the 17,500 Vietnamese remaining in Hong Kong

Hong Kong: Customs agents here claimed their biggest success in the war on copyright pirates after swooping on a smuggling syndicate yesterday and seizing a record haul of compact disc copies from China. Calvin Leung, a customs official, said more than 60,000 CDs had been impounded. (Reuters)



Some of the estimated 4,000 refugees crowded on to the Bulk Challenger which was yesterday given permission to dock at Takoradi

djan, the Ivory Coast capital. Médecins sans Frontières, which has a first aid ship tracking the Bulk Challenger, said its staff had been afraid to go aboard lest they were overwhelmed by panicking refugees.

"We think it's not safe to approach the ship because the refugees may try to jump into our vessel, which is only small," said Philip Doherty,

the charity's regional co-ordinator. "The sea is not the right place to help the people. The freighter needs to be in port."

America has scaled down its amphibious task force off Liberia but the commander of the operation said the US commitment to the mission remained unchanged.

Colonel Wayne Forbush, commander of Operation Assured Response, said the USS

Trenton, one of three ships that had been deployed 25 miles offshore, left on Thursday to take part in an exercise in Europe.

In Monrovia, the Liberian capital, West African peacekeepers yesterday shot dead two ethnic Krahn gunmen and wounded a third as they tried to loot an Indian shop.

Ecomog sources said the incident happened in the city

centre on a day during which most of Monrovia was calm, apart from the occasional burst of gunfire.

Earlier, the radio station run by Charles Taylor, the man who launched Liberia's civil war in 1989, said that the ruling Council of State had ordered the arrest of any gunmen or individual caught trying to loot.

Freed American slaves set

up Liberia as Africa's first republic in 1847. Many Liberians look to the United States as their mother country and some have called for direct US intervention to end six years of civil war which have killed more than 150,000 people.

Diplomatic sources claimed yesterday that Washington had put pressure on the Ghanaian authorities to allow the Bulk Challenger to dock.

Readers write off TV viewing

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A MAGAZINE for people who throw away their televisions has been started in Chicago and has caught the imagination of hundreds of families throughout America.

The White Dot, named after the way early television screens reacted when switched off, sold out within days of its first issue being published. Jean Lotus, the editor, said: "In America, saying you have no television is like saying you have no indoor plumbing." But she added that the standard of her

life had improved dramatically since she got rid of her own set.

The \$2 (£1.25) quarterly magazine carries tips on how, without a television, parents can entertain young children while they are showering or cooking (answer: take them in to the shower with you and let them "help" in the kitchen). The magazine also lists various misconceptions about the "TV-free," such as the belief that to dispose of television is to miss much of what modern conversation tends to be

about. "Skimming the local newspaper's lifestyle section lets you catch up enough to understand the small talk at work," it says.

One contributor describes how he threw away his set after watching a particularly witless programme one night. Alan Sierkowski opened the window of his third-floor flat and let his black-and-white television drop into the alley below. It landed with a crash "similar to a hand gun blast", he said, adding: "I swept up the remains... Free at last!"



Zeroual: under pressure

Algerian reforms aim to end revolt

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN ALGIERS

PRESIDENT ZEROUAL of Algeria outlined constitutional reform proposals yesterday that would enforce the separation between religion and politics, guarantee economic freedom and potentially encourage political pluralism.

The changes were presented in a 22-page memorandum to political parties, organisations and individuals who participated in recent talks with the President aimed at ending Algeria's crisis. Since the military's cancellation of elections that the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win in 1992, more than 40,000 people have died in a revolt by armed extremists seeking to overthrow the Government and establish an Islamic state in the country.

The economy and civil liberties, such as freedom of the press, have suffered as a result of the conflict, and Mr Zeroual, elected last November, is under pressure to improve conditions. The recent talks, however, did not include the Islamic Salvation Front, without whose participation many political observers think any solution is unlikely.

The proposed constitutional changes would limit the presidential mandate to a maximum of two terms, name a state supreme court and senate, and exclude religious and ethnic militancy from politics. The memorandum does not specify when elections, promised for 1997, will be held, but sets a timetable for participants in the recent talks to decide on dates. Economic liberalism and free enterprise would be made constitutional principles, the memorandum said. The participants in last month's talks have two weeks in which to reply to the proposals.

One notable omission in the memorandum was any mention of the army, traditionally Algeria's main power broker, a role contested by many opposition figures. A car bomb on Saturday in Bliida, 31 miles south of Algiers, killed three people and wounded 60, it was reported. Nobody had by last night claimed responsibility.

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Cold War veterans fret over Europe's fraying links with US

The event which will do more than anything else to shape Europe in the remaining years of the century has nothing to do with the European Union, Tory Eurosceptics or Helmut Kohl. On June 16, Russia begins electing a new president and the repercussions of that choice will be felt across the Continent and the Atlantic.

The possibility of a win by the ex-Communist Gennadi Zyuganov added extra electricity to a weekend gathering in Prague of retired Cold War warriors who worry about the fraying link between Europe and the United States. The conference, which had the air of an anti-Soviet

class reunion, launched a ponderously-titled "New Atlantic Initiative". But they might as well have met under the slogan, "Waiting for Mr Zyuganov".

Neatly-suited men from Washington think-tanks mingled with Czech priests who had been ordained in secret during the Communist years. Someone introduced a shy skinhead in a double-breasted suit with the words: "I first met Jan when I was writing a piece about right-wing rock music east of the Elbe".

The suave and enigmatic Peter Mandelson attended during telephone calls to London. For his pains, he was asked by the jovial Canadian millionaire Con-



rad Black what a Labour Party "spy" was doing at such a conservative gathering.

Through all this, Margaret Thatcher sailed with imperial authority, pardoning reverent crowds at the head of several television crews. She combined the wardrobe of Eliza-

beth I with the role of Cassandra, predicting doom if the West does not pull itself together.

She thumped, as "unbelievably insensitive", Helmut Kohl for suggesting that Europe might be threatened by war if its nations do not move towards political unity.

She took sideswipes at George Bush's phrase about the "New World Order", which had echoes of "utopian euphoria", at other politicians "too timid" to tell the truth, and compared the EU to the Austro-Hungarian empire. Her standing ovation was led by a Pole.

Vaclav Klaus, the Czech Prime Minister and the closest thing to a Eurosceptic in

Central Europe, is running for re-election for all his Thatcherite credentials. Mr Klaus is leading his country's bid to enter the EU as fast as possible.

One of only a handful of Germans present bravely pointed out that some American hawks may even want the crisis which is liable to happen if Mr Zyuganov comes to power in Moscow. He hit a nerve.

Checking American isolationism, creating a transatlantic free trade area and sabotaging a federal Europe are fine visions. But they are for the moment as politically practical as making sunbeams out of cucumbers. And they will stay that way as long

as the European agenda is shaped by a Franco-German alliance consistently backed by every American president. An aggressive President Zyuganov would start the juices of transatlantic co-operation flowing once again.

It is easy to make fun of Cold War nostalgia, but the Prague conference shone a light on neglected ideas. The end of the Soviet empire allowed Europe's governments to shrink defence budgets and to relax. But the diplomatic fiasco over Bosnia revealed that the Continent's voters had lost all interest in war.

But while the risk of superpower conflict has evaporat-

ed, the world is not risk-free. North Korea offers portable nuclear weapons for sale from a catalogue. Several rogue states may have ballistic missiles which can hit Europe before long.

Russia is busy trying to recruit allies in Central Europe. As a Hungarian MP reminded me: "Hitler said that in Europe there is no space without a master. The Russians know this." Sooner or later, Europe will have to come to terms with these under-rated problems. In theory, Europe is dealing with the power vacuum in central Europe by taking new members into the EU and

Nato. But the work is dragging and distracted by the single currency, most EU politicians have stopped bothering to give high profile support to the East.

Meanwhile, some ugly tendencies are breeding: the anti-German, anti-Gypsy, anti-Jewish Republic Party looks set to become the third strongest in the Czech Republic in this month's general election.

Reuniting a continent split by Stalin should be promoted as the leading moral task for the rising generation of European politicians. Instead, it has become an administrative chore.

GEORGE BROCK

Serb 'war criminal' is innocent loving father, family say

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN PRIJEDOR

MIRA TADIC sits at home in the Bosnian town of Prijedor listening to stories that her loving husband and father of her two children, is a psychotic monster capable of unspeakable evil.

The memorabilia in the household of Dusan Tadic, on trial in The Hague for war crimes, seems incongruous for an alleged killer. The images of Mr Tadic in the family photo album portray a compassionate father and husband who doted on his daughters and embraced his Muslim neighbours. A family video shows Mr Tadic at a party in his native Kozarac, drinking with his best friend Emir Karabasic, a Muslim policeman.

Is this the same man who conducted a reign of terror in north-western Bosnia in 1992? Or is he a victim of mistaken identity?

The indictment issued by the International War Crimes Tribunal describes Mr Tadic as a sadistic killer who supervised a reign of terror across his hometown and the surrounding area, torturing, killing and raping his Muslim neighbours, including his best friend.

How is it possible, his family asks, that the man the tribunal claims brutally beat and killed his former neighbours by day, remained a gentle and loving father who

played with his daughters and looked after his wife and mother when he came home at night?

"I saw my father every night that summer," said Valentina, 17, the eldest of Mr Tadic's two daughters. "He could not have done those things. How could anyone believe he did?"

Mira Tadic is a petite 36-year-old nurse who speaks to her husband once a week on the telephone and will not believe the horror stories.

"If I believed any of the accusations, I would not be with him," said Mrs Tadic as she sat with seven-year-old Saska, her younger daughter, looking at the photographs of their old life together in the village of Kozarac.

The accusations are rumours, propaganda spread by people who suffered and want

Tribunal to hear killing details

The Hague tribunal will later this week begin hearing details of the campaign of murder, torture and sexual violence allegedly waged by Dusan Tadic against the Muslims of the Prijedor region in north-west Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1992. A total of 57 people have been indicted but just three are in custody.

somebody to blame," she added.

Mr Tadic's former Muslim neighbours, however, have no trouble believing any of the accusations. "I have absolutely no doubt that the man who beat me was Dusan Tadic," said one of Mr Tadic's former neighbours, a childhood friend who would not give his name because he is going to testify at the trial.

"I can't understand what happened to that guy," he said. "We grew up together. I used to spend holidays with the Tadic family in a summer house in the mountains... I still have nightmares about it. After doing all those things, he can't hide anywhere, not even from himself."

Survivors of the infamous Omarska, Trnopolje and Keraterm detention camps where Mr Tadic is alleged to have paid visits as a freelance executioner, insist he became infected with a cruel brand of nationalism that swept across the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s. They say something snapped in Mr Tadic in 1992, turning him into a brutal killer who turned against his friends.

As the trial proceeds, the question of who is right will probably become clearer, but it may never be possible to know if Mr Tadic is a compassionate family man, a brutal killer, or both.



Mira Tadic, the wife of Dusan Tadic, the Serb being tried for war crimes in The Hague, looks at family pictures at home in Bosnia with their daughter Saska, 7

European 'threat' to peace in Bosnia

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE architect of the fragile peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina has accused European governments of threatening stability in the Balkans by undermining the Dayton peace accord.

Richard Holbrooke said the United States had completed the military goals outlined last year. But he said there were "disturbing signs" that some Europeans no longer seemed committed to the civilian side of the deal, including economic reconstruction, the return of refugees, prosecution of war criminals and preparations for elections.

The former Assistant Secretary for European Affairs who masterminded the American-brokered agreement, cited three options for the future of Bosnia: renewed conflict, successful federation, or partition. "I consider the chances of renewed war to be low," he writes in Time magazine today. "But it is distressing that some important European officials are privately writing off Dayton's political provisions and preparing the ground for *de facto* partition next year."

The White House is eager to avoid problems over Bosnia before November's presidential elections and Mr Holbrooke's attack on Europe was seen as political cover for President Clinton should Congress insist that he withdraw American forces by the agreed deadline at the end of the year.

Arson at home of novelist

Atlanta: The apartment house nicknamed "the Dump" where Margaret Mitchell wrote much of the novel *Gone With The Wind* was virtually destroyed in a fire yesterday that officials said was started deliberately.

"Firemen smelled petrol when they first started attacking the fire," a fire department investigator said. The vacant three-storey building where Mitchell lived in the 1920s had been heavily damaged in a 1994 fire. Last year, Daimler-Benz AG, the German car manufacturer, agreed to pay \$4 million (£2.64 million) to restore the building. (Reuter)

New powers for Chinese army

Peking: China's parliament is to pass a defence law that empowers the People's Liberation Army to crush rebellions and struggles for regional independence, along with a new gun law to fight violent crime, state media reported. The law provides the death penalty for gun offences and stipulates that the Communist Party has absolute leadership of the army. (Reuter)

Museveni backs economic reform

Kampala: President Museveni of Uganda was sworn in for a five-year term after winning 74.2 per cent of valid votes in the presidential election against 23.7 per cent for Paul Ssemogerere, the main opposition candidate. He promised to continue with reforms that have given Uganda one of Africa's fastest-growing economies. (Reuter)

Help sought over British hostage

Phnom Penh: The Cambodian military will ask Thai counterparts to help negotiate the release of Christopher Howes, a British mine removal expert, and a translator kidnapped by the Khmer Rouge, it was reported. Mr Howes, 36, of Bristol and 26 Cambodians were taken hostage on March 25. (AFP)

Inmates see key to clean getaway

New York: Two "trusty" prisoners on car washing duty in Decatur, Texas, escaped in a sheriff's Jeep after being given the keys and told to park it in Wise County jail yard (Quentin Letts writes). The Jeep was equipped with a police radio, which could have helped them to evade capture.

Beef tops agenda for Chirac visit

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC arrives at Waterloo Station tomorrow for a four-day state visit that will underline France's extremely close defence relations with Britain and, the Government hopes, win a more sympathetic hearing in Paris for its views on the beef crisis and the future of the European Union.

Like the best French feasts, the visit has been designed with something to tempt every palate: a wealth of British pomp and pageantry, a dash of Gallic charm, a little beef and a range of elaborate and sugary desserts.

The visit, on the anniversary of M Chirac's installation in the Elysee, is intended to demonstrate that whatever the disagreements over monetary union and European integration, France remains one of Britain's closest partners in Europe. The contrast with François

Mitterrand's final years as President could not be greater. M Chirac, a bluff, English-speaker with down-to-earth tastes, is a man that John Major believes he can do business with. The two struck up an immediate personal and political rapport, and the President's first working visit to London last October was marked by effusive warmth on both sides.

The first day will be almost entirely ceremonial. M Chirac will arrive by Eurostar and will be met by Princess Margaret. He will have lunch at Buckingham Palace, lay wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior and the Charles de Gaulle memorial and conclude the day with the traditional state banquet.

Political discussion will be limited to a session at Downing Street on Wednesday. The main issues are predictable: the beef crisis, the inter-governmental conference

and EU enlargement, Bosnia, defence and nuclear co-operation, and Nato. There will also be talks on terrorism and drugs co-operation, where both sides may want make announcements.

To demonstrate his concern with urban problems, on Thursday the President has chosen to visit depressed Easterhouse in Glasgow, where he will see the work by the Prince's Trust and perhaps gain additional insight into tackling France's troubled inner cities.

The Lord Mayor of London will host a Guildhall lunch, the Government will give its lunch amid the splendour of Hampton Court, and M Chirac will invite the Queen to a reciprocal banquet before leaving. He will also address Parliament in French, with simultaneous translation.

Leading article, page 19

Bossi names leadership for breakaway 'Padania' state

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

DESPITE warnings that moves toward secession will be met with force, Umberto Bossi, the leader of the separatist Northern League, yesterday announced his "government" in Padania, the name given by the League to Italy's northern provinces.

Signor Bossi made his announcement at the self-styled "Parliament of the North" in Mantua. The parliament also formed a "Committee for the Liberation of the North", which will convene in June.

The "prime minister" in the ten-member government was named as Giancarlo Pajularani, a leading Northern League MP and a former Budget Minister.

The meeting was policed by stewards in green shirts, who are seen as the kernel of a Padanian armed force. In the south, pro-unity demonstrators wore red shirts yesterday at Marsala in Sicily to mark the anniversary of landings by

Garibaldi's "one thousand", which paved the way for unification in the 1860s.

Signor Bossi said Padania was the best hope of a "way out" for Italy, "which was heading for collapse". Signor Pajularani said everyone was against the League because it was trying to "change the map of power to make Italy more

rational". He said he favoured "a Europe of the regions".

Signor Bossi wants Padania to have its own national football team and Italian athletes competing in the Atlanta Olympics will be discreetly monitored in case any unfurl the banner of Padania.

In last month's election, which otherwise benefited the Left, the Northern League made a strong showing by appealing to northern resentment of high taxation and subsidies paid to the poorer south and won 59 seats in the Lower House plus 27 seats in the Senate.

The new Speaker of the Lower House, Luciano Violante, a leading member of the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS), or former Communists, warned Signor Bossi on Friday that the forthcoming Centre Left government led by Romano Prodi would use force if necessary to prevent the country splitting in two.



Bossi: claims Italy is heading for collapse

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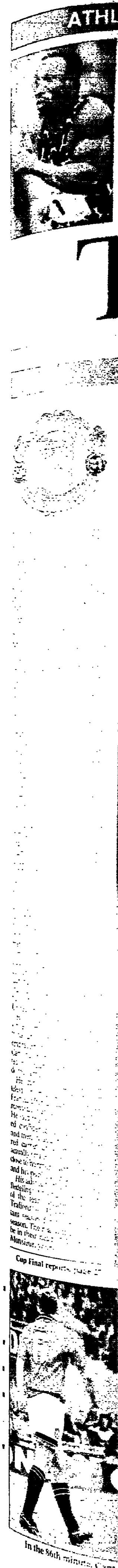
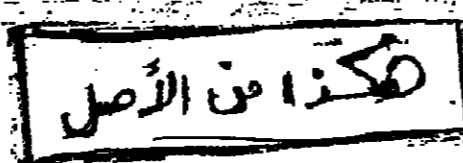
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ATHLETICS

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Christie makes winning start outdoors



MOTOR RACING

25

Driving ambition keeps Piquet on track



CRICKET

29

Hooper ready to make extra effort



RUGBY UNION

30

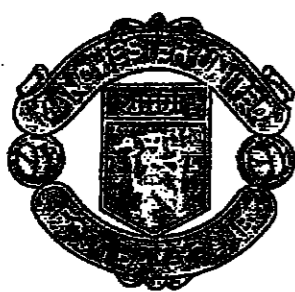
Wigan run wild at home of rival code



TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MAY 13 1996

FROM TROUBLE TO DOUBLE: THE SEASON OF OOH AAH



THE transformation of Eric Cantona, from social outcast to a man able to turn the other cheek while being spat upon on the steps to the Royal Box at Wembley, appears so complete that one wonders whether some kind of mind altering therapy has been at work (Rob Hughes writes).

This is not just a judgment passed on the man whose temper burst so that he took a leap into the crowd at Selhurst Park in January 1995, but on the same player who in pique had more than once put his boot into a fallen opponent. "I have tried to correct myself, but I have lost my game," he reasoned.

Wrong, Eric. As wrong as so many critics were when they would have denied the atonement which during the past season has provided an example way beyond sport, an example of exemplary behaviour under stress that has earned respect and esteem beyond his wildest dream.

To hear Cantona say now that England is the place for him and his young family, that he might follow the example of Ruud Gullit and actually manage here, is some compliment, both to his new self control and England's ability to come to terms with its own xenophobia. To achieve, at the same time, the leadership of a club regaining both the League and FA Cup trophies is a double endorsement.

His part on the field includes vital goals that directly account for 21 points in the FA Carling Premiership, including that five-goal spell where he scored the only goals of United's matches.

He had long affected United's mood, from an irrational and dark period to the embrace of youth. When Cantona snarled, so did United; now Cantona purrs, they do the same.

He came out talking, on television in England and in France, after a year of almost monastic silence last weekend. He said that we misinterpreted confidence as arrogance, and then swaggered on to the red carpet at Wembley. He actually smiled, a man coming close to harmony with himself and his public world.

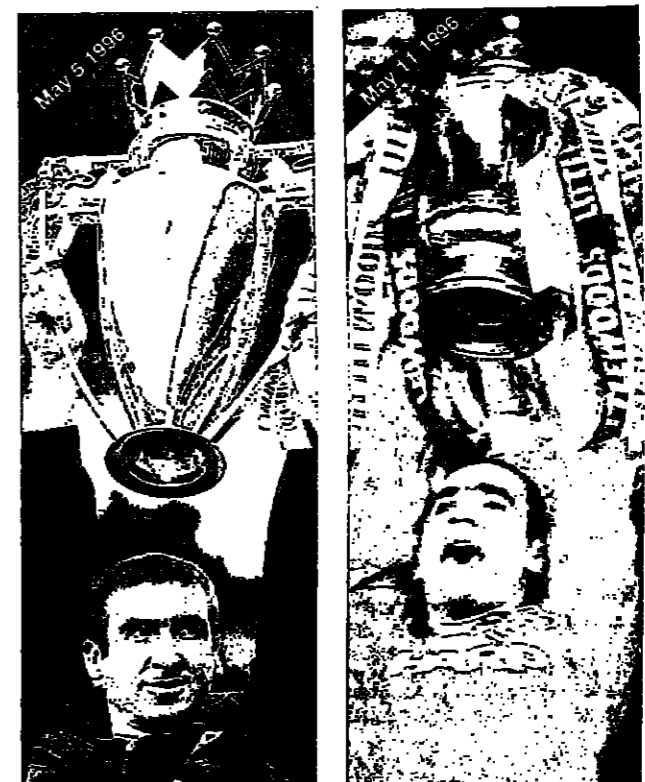
His advice to the five young fledglings who have been part of the team success at Old Trafford? — "The most important season for them is next season. The real difficulty will be in their heads." Yours too, Monsieur, yours too.



Manchester United's captain and inspiration runs to celebrate with his supporters after scoring the winner against Liverpool at Wembley



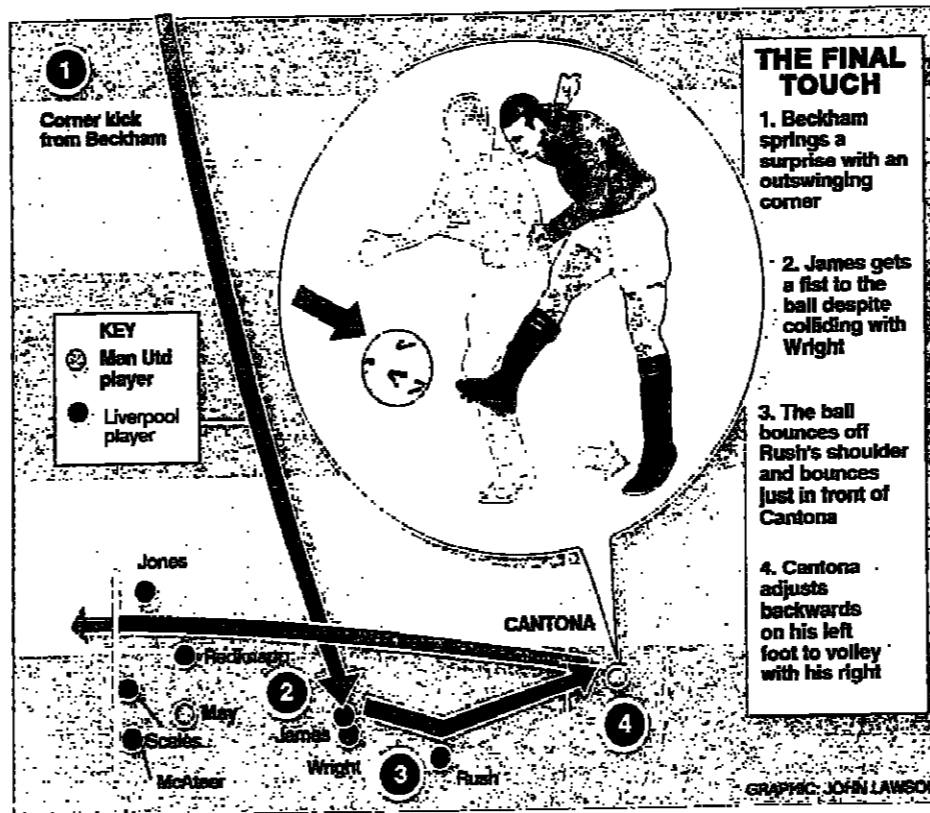
In the crowd and out of the game for eight months



Two trophies in six days: Premiership and FA Cup



In the 86th minute, Cantona pounces on an error by the Liverpool defence



THE FINAL TOUCH

1. Beckham springs a surprise with an outswinging corner
2. James gets a fist to the ball despite colliding with Wright
3. The ball bounces off Rusli's shoulder and bounces just in front of Cantona
4. Cantona adjusts backwards on his left foot to volley with his right

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Piquet still vying for pole position among the greats



Piquet won three world titles

Two Brazilians each won three Formula One world championships. The body of one has lain in a grave in the Morumbi Cemetery, a rare oasis of green in the urban sprawl of São Paulo, for more than two years, his memory hallowed by his countrymen, remembered by his countrymen, remembered by his countrymen, remembered by his countrymen...

Shuffle, a legacy of the jolting, high-speed meeting he had with the concrete wall during his first visit to the speedway in 1992. That almost ripped Piquet's feet off and effectively ended his career. He raced in the Indianapolis 500 the following year as a point of pride and made sure he got a message to Nigel Mansell, his old adversary, who was tackling the track for the first time...



Oliver Holt on a burning rivalry that lives on two years after the tragic death of Ayrton Senna

yesterday's four-hour endurance race, preparation for next month's Le Mans 24-hour race, one of his last driving ambitions. At first, he was reluctant to take part because he hates the emasculating changes that have been made to a circuit that used to be fast and free, but his Bigazzi team persuaded him it would be a good idea.

The rivalry still remains, the memories are fresh and poignant. The other great drivers of the time, Mansell, Niki Lauda and Prost have glossed over the many difficulties they had with Senna out of respect for a great lost talent. Not Piquet, the man who once called Senna 'a São Paulo taxi driver'.

the right time. If he had come in five years earlier, he would never have won anything. Because telemetry (recording readings from instruments and transmitting them by radio) was available when he arrived, he saw everything that Prost and I were doing and he copied it. He was not an inventive guy. He could not develop things. He got into a good car, the McLaren, and he won his three championships in that car. I won with different teams and engines.

When the Brazilian press asked him why he had disappeared he said it was so I could have some space in the newspapers. So the media came to me and told me what he had said. So I said Senna had to explain why he did not like women and when he saw that, he got very upset.

Harrington hurries towards his destiny

FROM MEL WEBB IN MADRID

AS DAY became evening and evening began to ease into night, Pádraig Harrington was poised to become the sixth golfer this season to claim the first PGA European Tour victory of his career.

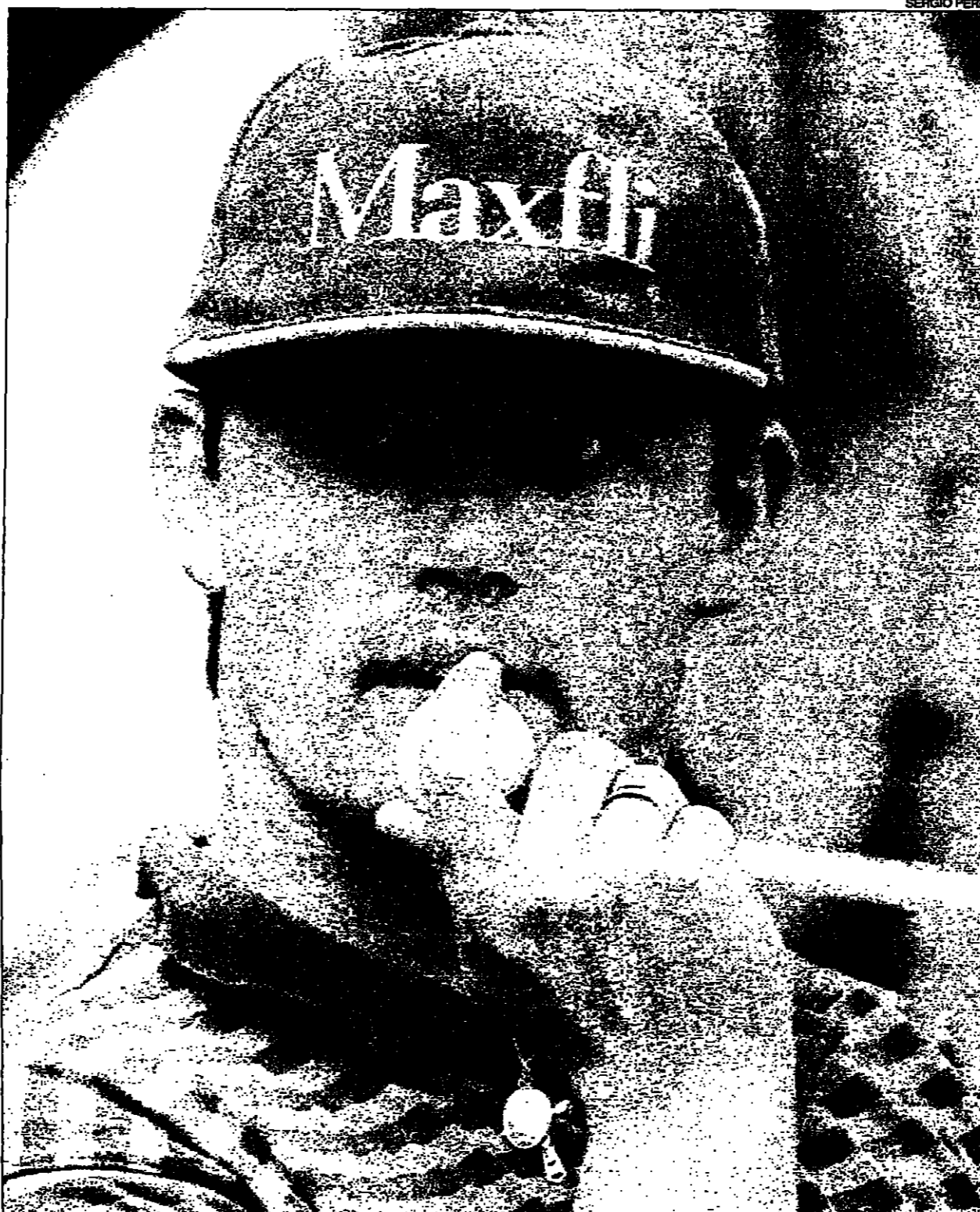
him and his nearest rivals when he finished his second round in the dim and distant past of Friday. Yesterday he turned his lead from commanding to overwhelming with a 67, the lowest score of the third round. It was hardly anybody's tournament to win, but it was certainly his to lose.

Leaders after three rounds	
Great Britain and Ireland unless stated	
201: P Harrington 70, 64, 67, 207; P Linhart (Sw) 70, 68, 69, 208; M Gorenberg (Sw) 69, 70, 69, 208; P O'Malley (Aus) 67, 70, 71, 208; G Brand Jr 70, 67, 71, 208; S Grogan (Ire) 69, 71, 209; M Gorenberg (Sw) 69, 70, 71, 211; S Torrance 70, 71, 70, 210; R Atterby (Aus) 72, 70, 68, 210; T Price (Aus) 70, 72, 68, 210; S Grogan (Ire) 69, 71, 68, 210; D Hooper (Ire) 72, 69, 71, 211; J L. Guey (Fr) 73, 70, 68, 211; C Carter 70, 70, 72, 211; Westwood 68, 72, 72, 211; M Williams 67, 70, 75.	

tor, decided that two rounds should be played on the final day. "I am trying to preserve the integrity of the game, rather than taking the easy option," Stewart said. On the other hand, a cogent case could be made for describing a decision to play only 18 as easy but sensible. Integrity is a fine thing, but so, sometimes, is pragmatism.

As it transpired, neither failure nor fear was on the agenda. He had only one bogey in the third round, at the 11th, his second. It did not deter him, for he retrieved the slip with three consecutive birdies and another at the 17th to reach the turn in 33. Two more birdies coming home meant that, as he munched a late light lunch, he had the comfort of a six-shot advantage separating him from Pedro Linhart, his nearest rival, who was playing two groups ahead of him.

Davies battling against the elements



Harrington stayed calm in sight of a notable first European Tour victory in the Spanish Open in Madrid

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE
MARK FULCHER, caddy for Laura Davies in the rain-disrupted McDonald's LPGA Championship at the DuPont Country Club here, reckoned his boss would need a 68 in the third and final round yesterday, to win the title. David Davies, Laura's father, just laughed. "If you have a 68," he said, "you'll win by miles."

behind Kelly Robbins, the defending champion, who had a glorious birdie three at the last to complete her second round yesterday. A thunderstorm had put an abrupt end to the proceedings on Saturday afternoon when Robbins still had ten holes to play. In a battle against the elements, she came through best of all, hitting a five-wood to 20 feet at the 18th and holing the putt. She was on 140, a shot ahead of Hiroshi Kobayashi, of Japan. Davies, who had to play two holes, the eighth and ninth, had a double bogey five at the former, a mini monster of 192 yards, where she hit a four-iron short, chipped to

St Helens put on repeat performance

ST HELENS 24
LONDON BRONCOS 22

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ST HELENS matched their comeback in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final two weeks ago when they retrieved a 14-point deficit last night to deny an extraordinarily brave effort by London Broncos and retain their unbeaten record, four points clear of Wigan in the Super League.

rate grubber kick caused havoc and Minto got finger-tip pressure to the bobbling ball over the line. The video official was summoned, but the try was never in doubt. Searching for the breakthrough, St Helens persisted with brute force — not that London were about to buckle, yet anyway. Barwick, lethal as a kicker in open play, also again demonstrated his nimbleness in restricted space, out-witting the St Helens cover after McRae had cleverly kept possession alive and worked the ball out wide.

Perhaps the cat-calls had a wider effect, for something was certainly amiss with St Helens. They were guilty of more mistakes in the first half, when they trailed 18-8, than they had been in the entire season. Attempting to force the pass against a heavy-tackling London pack, the usual dangerous wide running of McVeety and Ferrelli was unsuccessful. In defence, they were also uncomfortable.

St Helens' failure to get the ball out to their wings quickly enough stymied them for long periods. Goulding's kicking did not produce its normal trouble and although one cross-field effort reached Arnold, the wing was wrapped up by the London defence. Finally, in the 58th minute, the fightback began. Goulding, under pressure from Roskell, flicked a pass out to Booth, who crashed in under the posts. While the

Paul Newlove was at fault in London's opening try. The world's most expensive player missed the ankles of Barwick, who raced on to McCrae's neat pass before adding the first of several touchline conversions. Although Newlove quickly made amends — from 40 metres out, he beat Tollett, left Langer groping and then stepped back inside Barwick to score — St Helens seemed unable to impose themselves and, instead, London tightened their stranglehold. McCrae's inventive kick bounced high and kicked for Roskell than Prescott, who paid for his hesitation in failing to get across to snuff out the danger.

pass was forward and London were justified in their grievance about it, the score had a galvanising effect on St Helens. Under desperate pressure, London succumbed to Gibbs, who provided an emphatic answer to his grandstand critics. Goulding missed the conversion, but put St Helens ahead for the first time ten minutes from the end when Mautiua fed Martyn for a try that brought the house down.

When Gill high-tackled Hammond, Goulding gratefully collected two points with a goal, but on the stroke of half-time, Bawden rampaged up the middle. Barwick's accu-

In a nervous finale, Gibbs shouldered Paul into touch and was helped from the field for his pains, this time to resounding cheers. SCORES: St Helens: Tries: Newlove, Booth, Gibbs, Martyn; Goals: Goulding (2). London Broncos: Tries: Barwick (2), Roskell, Minto; Goals: Barwick, R. Goulding; Penalties: G. Cunningham, A. Lasham, D. McVeety, S. Booth, C. Joynt; Substitutes: A. Hurke, I. Marlyn, V. Matautia, I. Pedersen. LONDON BRONCOS: G. Bawden; J. Minto, S. Roskell, T. Tollett, J. Peck, D. McRae, K. Langer, I. Mautiua, I. Ros, D. Shaw, S. Rossiter, J. Bryant, P. Gil; Substitutes: R. Bawden, D. Dwyer, D. Pitt, M. Brown. Referee: S. Peaseley.

Confident Doherty takes control

BY PHIL YATES

KEN DOHERTY, flush with confidence after recording one of the outstanding results of the snooker season, established a 6-2 lead over Steve Davis after the first session of the final of the Dr Martens European League at Irthlingborough yesterday.



Doherty: title in sight

the qualifying competition of the 1992 Asian Open. On the way to completing victory in just 72 minutes, Doherty fluently compiled breaks of 102, 76, 94, 83, 40 and 72 as he fully exploited a series of mistakes from Hendry, who looked understandably jaded after the long haul to winning his sixth world championship at the Crucible in Sheffield seven days ago.

Claymores outgun Galaxy

FROM RICHARD WETHERELL IN FRANKFURT

MURRAYFIELD will host the World Bowl on June 23 after Scottish Claymores dominated the previously unbeaten Frankfurt Galaxy on Saturday. The 20-0 victory in Germany, based on a superbly-directed defence, the running of Siran Stacy and the catching of Sean LaChapelle, means both sides end the first half of the World League of American Football season with four wins and one defeat.

last year, when he won just two games after taking over in the week before the first game, he added: "How sweet it is to go from the outhouse to the penthouse." The Claymores defence baffled the Galaxy offence so comprehensively that the league's most prolific team never looked capable of scoring. Their quarterbacks threw five interceptions, two of which were collected by James Fuller. As ever, the visitors attack was based almost solely on Stacy, the running back, and LaChapelle, the wide receiver. With 133 yards the former is now the all-time World League leading rusher. Paul McCallum's two field goals in the first and third quarters were a poor reward for their efforts, but LaChapelle's 21-yard touchdown reception in the final quarter put the Claymores 13-0 ahead, and the game was settled soon after when the Galaxy's next play produced the second of Fullers' interceptions. After a typical drive revolving around Stacy, Thomas took over to score from three yards. Having the honour of hosting the final appeared well beyond the Claymores when they trailed the London Monarchs 21-7 in the opening game. They eventually won 24-21 in overtime and the Monarchs' 28-9 away defeat against Amsterdam Admirals means an England v Scotland final is highly improbable. Their record is now one victory and four defeats.

THE TIMES
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Tomorrow: the winner and the final scores

Crystal Palace revival under Bassett continues as they win first leg of play-off semi-final

T-shirt prediction has ring of truth

Charlton Athletic 1
Crystal Palace 2

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

WHETHER it was mischievous intent or misplaced arrogance, several Crystal Palace players wore T-shirts, bearing the logo 'Premier League 1996', when they turned up at The Valley yesterday. For 45 minutes of the first leg of the Endleigh Insurance League first division play-off, it seemed that the jolly lads had backfired: 45 minutes later, having turned around a 1-0 deficit, their confidence of a quick return to the FA Carling Premiership appeared entirely justified.

Though there is still a second leg of the semi-final to be played, and a subsequent decider against Leicester City or Stoke City at Wembley, Palace are on course to regain their place among the elite. They have lost only four times in 21 matches since the arrival of Dave Bassett as manager and, on such a roll, will take some stopping.

Palace needed a half-time pep-talk from Bassett yesterday before finding their true form. 'In the first half, we played as individuals and not as a team,' he said. 'I suggested to the lads that perhaps they could play the way we had asked them to and, fortunately, they responded.'

Unlike some of his players, Bassett, who is homing in on his seventh promotion, declined to make any presumptuous statements. 'We will not be complacent,' he said. 'There is no way we are going home crowing.'

Palace had ended the regulation season on a high note, rising from 16th place to third under Bassett's tuition. Charlton, with only one victory from their closing nine matches, nervously clung to sixth position, courtesy of Ipswich Town's failure to beat Millwall on the final day.

Perhaps the Charlton players had already seen, or been told, of the provocative Palace printing, such was the ferocity of their opening bombardment and they took only 55 seconds to pummel their way through the Palace defence.

Jackson's cross from the right caught Andersen in at



Brown acknowledges his own delight and that of the Palace supporters after volleying the equaliser against Charlton at The Valley

least three minds. Ultimately, he exercised a wrong option, rocketing a diving header at Martyn, his own goalkeeper.

Through Martyn did well to block the unexpected goal attempt, he was unable to prevent Newton from neatly tucking in the rebound.

The goal signalled a frenzied, often ugly, spell of south-east London rivalry and there were a series of niggly fouls.

Only after John Kirkby, the referee, had booked Newton, for a foul on Tuttle, did things calm down. Palace recovered, slowly, with Houghton in businesslike mode in midfield. All too frequently, though, imaginative approach work floundered against Rufus and Balmer, the Charlton centre backs, and only a spectacular save from Martyn prevented Newton from adding a second goal.

Rash challenges littered the second half, too. Cool heads were called for, but few were evident, the occasion getting the better, or worse, of many as Andersen and Leaburn joined Newton in Kirkby's notebook.

From amid the bitterness, Palace emerged the stronger. Charlton appeared content to preserve what they had and, predictably, the pressure mounted, culminating in two Palace goals in the space of six

minutes. Brown volleyed in the first, in the 65th minute, after Freedman's shot had been blocked by Peterson.

Another Freedman effort was smothered by Peterson, but from the resultant corner, Palace went ahead. Nda's acrobatic overhead kick dropped fortuitously into the six-yard area and Veart reacted quickly, stooping to glance it past Peterson for his first goal for the club.

Only then did Charlton venture forward with any real passion, but it was too little, too late. Perhaps regulars at The Valley can print their T-shirts already: 'Football League first division, 1996'.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): A. Peterson, M. Jackson, R. Rufus, S. Balmer, C. Whyte, M. Robinson (sub: D. Whyte, T. Zenni, L. Boyer, J. Robinson, S. Newton, C. Leaburn, B. Allen (sub: G. Nelson, 67)).

CRYSTAL PALACE (5-2-3): N. Martin, M. Edworthy, A. Roberts, D. Tuttle, L. E. Anderson (sub: R. Quinn, 85), K. Brown, R. Houghton, D. Pitcher, C. Veart, D. Freedman, G. Nda.

Referee: J. Kirkby.

Woeful Leicester allow Stoke to seize initiative

Leicester City 0
Stoke City 0

By PETER BALL

STOKE CITY got what they deserved in the Filbert Street sunshine yesterday. A goalless draw in a desperately poor game fits the advantage their way for the second leg of their Endleigh Insurance League first division play-off semi-final at the Victoria Ground on Wednesday evening.

'When you are away in the first game, you don't want to lose, and we have achieved that,' Lou Macari, the Stoke manager, said, 'but we might have done better, we had two good chances in the first ten minutes and missed both of them, but that has gone now. We start level on Wednesday, it will be another cup-tie now, and there is no guarantee that we will play as well then.'

Leicester have half a Premiership ground with two imposing stands, and two that would flout be out of place at Mansfield or Hereford. Yesterday, Filbert Street was full, and it felt like the home of a big club, but, on this performance, it is questionable whether they have even half a Premiership team.

Although Stoke now have home advantage, the game is far from over. Leicester have a good away record and it is difficult to believe that they can play as badly again.

'I've videoed this, but you wouldn't want to watch it, would you?' a despairing supporter remarked with ten minutes to go. Only a masochist would have answered 'Yes'.

The appalling pitch did nothing for Leicester's passing game, but play-off nerves did even more damage. Until the arrival of Parker, the general fall of the side until Mark McGhee's departure, in the 57th minute, Leicester had made but one telling pass.

The fear of making mistakes and Stoke's constant physical challenge led to negative pass, followed by the ball being banged

aimlessly down field. No wonder that Justin Whittle, the Stoke central defender, got the man-of-the-match award; Leicester's attacks made it easy for him and Sigurdsson to keep them at bay.

Leicester might have been out of the game in the first five minutes. First, Claridge, under pressure, tried to pass back to Poole; Sturridge intercepted and had a free run on goal, but Poole blocked his shot with his legs. A minute later, Stoke had an even better chance as Potter met Devin's cross about five yards out. Somehow, Poole, coming back from the near post, got his body in the way of the header.

'The first save was brilliant, but the second one was fantastic; I don't know how he kept it out, but it kept us in the game,' Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, said.



Macari: satisfied

Sadly, instead of that being the start of a thrilling game, it was to prove the highlight. The remaining 85 minutes dragged on interminably and, although Stoke looked the sharper side, they never created anything so promising again, although Gieghon and Devin both had reasonable claims for penalties ignored by the referee.

LEICESTER CITY (4-4-2): K. Poole, S. Grayson, J. Watts, S. Walsh, M. Whelan, M. Zoubi, S. Taylor, N. Lennon, E. Heskey, S. Clarke, M. Roberts (sub: G. Parker, 56).

STOKE CITY (4-4-2): M. Puchner, I. Clarkson, L. Sigurdsson, Whittle, L. Sandford, M. Devin, R. Wallace, Gieghon, G. Potter, S. Sturridge, M. Sheehan.

Referee: W. Burns.

Play-off expert Warnock may still have last word

Colchester United 1
Plymouth Argyle 0

By ALYSON RUDD

COLCHESTER United, for all their heroics and deserved victory at Layer Road in the third division play-off semi-final yesterday, remain the underdogs. Neil Warnock, the Plymouth Argyle manager, is king in the land of the play-off and Plymouth can be expected to lift their game and their morale for the second leg on Wednesday.

Play-off semi-finals are an indignity or a glorious boon — it all depends on how a team reached them. Plymouth were on course, and fully expected, to gain automatic promotion to the second division this season. They missed out by just one point and probably cannot comprehend that their season is still grinding along.

Colchester have squandered early promise in their past four seasons since regaining their place back in the League, and could hardly believe their luck as results around the country went in their favour on the final day of the season

and they squeezed into the play-offs.

Not surprisingly, then, it was Colchester who zoomed around the pitch with zest and optimism. Plymouth, looked impatient and irritable — at one point, Heathcote and Leadbitter began pushing at each other with a marked lack of camaraderie.

Warnock claimed that the scuffle between his players was timely. 'I was very pleased, to be honest,' he said. 'I was thanking Leadbitter at half-time for getting him [Heathcote] going.'

Colchester had plenty of the Three Musketeers spirit and, after a dire opening 15 minutes, slowly took charge. Crawley headed wide, Cherry had to backpedal and spring skywards to tip over a dangerous curling cross from Kinsella, and then McGieish attempted a spectacular overhead kick that he flicked wide of the upright.

Undeterred, Colchester pressed harder. McGieish had another two excellent opportunities and then, seconds before half-time, Kinsella, a product of the club's youth scheme, took the one-for-all attitude. He neatly side-stepped the

challenge of Barlow and, from 25 yards fired, an exquisitely placed shot past Cherry. The timing of the goal simply meant that Plymouth had the interval in which to lose any sense of being rudely awakened. Colchester took charge once again, and, in the 62nd minute, Reinelt's blistering strike bounced off an upright.

At last, Warnock's side took the bait. Leadbitter's free kick curled to the far post and, had Heathcote reached it with a firmer touch, it would have led to a certain goal. Billy, too, looked destined to equalise when left with a clear run to goal and only Embersson to beat. Billy lifted the ball over the goalkeeper and wide of the post.

Do not read too much into this result, however. Warnock has won three play-off finals — twice with Notts County and once with Huddersfield Town. With home advantage in the second leg, Wembley can only beckon.

COLCHESTER (4-4-2): C. Embersson, T. McCaffrey, P. Crawley, G. Crawley, S. Bristle, C. Fry, T. Dennis, M. Kinsella, P. Gibbs (sub: A. Locke, 76min) — S. Heacock, R. Reinelt, PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (3-5-2): S. Cherry, R. Logan, M. Heathcote, C. Curran, M. Patterson, M. Barlow, P. Meaze, (sub: C. Leadbitter, C. Billy, P. Williams — A. Littlejohn, M. Evans, C. Corazza, 87). Referee: M. Pearce.

Blackpool take step in right direction

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

IT ALL went sadly wrong for Blackpool. With just weeks to go to the end of the season, promotion from the Endleigh Insurance League second division was within their grasp — yet they threw it away and Oxford United stole into the first division in their stead. A tawdry finish to a frustrating afternoon against Swindon Town at Bloomfield Road, bringing bad publicity aplenty, hardly helped matters.

Yesterday, however, Blackpool set about putting things right. Condemned to scrapping for the spare promotion place via the dreaded play-offs, they began promisingly, beating Bradford City 2-0 at Valley Parade. They broke the deadlock after 71 minutes, when Tony Ellis scored with a superb left-foot shot, and sealed the win through Mark Bonner's header seven minutes later.

There was also an away win, 2-1, for Darlington in their third division play-off with Hereford United, but they had to bounce back from the shock of Smith putting Hereford ahead

after two minutes. Darlington drew level in the 27th minute with a header from Gregan and Blake scored the winner ten minutes later.

John Gorman, the Scottish-born former Swindon Town manager, has agreed to become Glenn Hoddle's assistant in the England setup next season. Gorman's appointment has yet to be confirmed by the Football Association, but it is understood the present Bristol City assistant manager has accepted the chance to renew his partnership with Hoddle, established when Hoddle was the manager at Swindon.

A dramatic 82nd-minute goal from Stephen Geoghegan, the striker, earned Shelbourne a 2-1 win over St Patrick's Athletic, their Dublin rivals, in the Football Association of Ireland Cup final replay at Dallowmount Park yesterday.

St Patrick's had gone ahead in the 59th minute through Campbell's header, but Shelbourne equalised after 72 minutes through Sheridan.

Seasonal hoodoo returns to haunt profligate Crewe

Crewe Alexandra 2
Notts County 2

By DAVID MADDOCK

THESE would appear to be something of an aversion to the play-off system at Greysty Road. Three times in the past five years, Crewe Alexandra have drawn a losing ticket in that particular lottery, and it seems that a fourth disappointment is on the way.

They contrived to throw away a winning position against Notts County by conceding two goals through poor defending, the second deep into stoppage time at the end of the match. Such generosity suggests that County will hold the upper hand when the sides meet again on Wednesday for the return leg of this Endleigh Insurance League second division play-off semi-final.

County emerged as favourites to reach Wembley thanks to an equalising goal in the second minute of stoppage time from Gary Martindale, the substitute. Crewe's vacant defence stood idly as Battersby exploited a vast amount of space in the box and crossed

for Martindale to head into the net from close range. Such defending has seen Crewe lose ten out of 14 games during the run-in, and frequently sent Dario Gradi, the manager, into an apoplectic state.

He did not disappoint after this game. 'We were awful, we just didn't play at all, and I haven't got a clue how we will play in the return leg,' he said. 'I'm sure we'll run about, but whether we play with any brains is another matter — we certainly didn't today.'

They did manage a coherent enough display in the first half to take a two-goal lead, thanks largely to the influence of Danny Murphy in midfield. His absence, through injury, for the final 15 minutes allowed County back into the game.

Crewe had taken the lead in the third minute when a corner by Rivers was allowed to reach Colin Little, who was unmarked, and he scored with an emphatic header.

They went further ahead when Steve Macauley, a makeshift centre forward, delivered a wonderful through ball for Rivers to chase. Ward, the County goalkeeper, was

first to the ball, but he contrived to blast his clearance against the legs of Rivers, and the ball rolled cruelly into the net.

Murphy hit a post, Rivers hit the goalkeeper from close range and Macauley missed a rather simple header as Crewe were presented with chances to put the tie beyond reasonable doubt. Such profligacy gave County encouragement, and they clawed their way back into the match after 53 minutes. Again it was a poor goal to concede, Unsworth, the Crewe full back, gave the ball to Steve Finnian, who promptly found the corner of the net.

Colin Murphy, the Notts County general manager, believes that his side are now in a strong position. 'We had a monstrous start, but we played very well in the second half and we have the importance now of the two away goals,' he said.

CREWE ALEXANDRA (4-3-3): M. Gayle, A. Westwood, C. Lightwood, B. Macauley, L. Unsworth, D. Murphy, G. Martindale, G. 75, G. Whalley (sub: W. Collins, 68min) — C. Little, S. Macauley, M. Rivers (sub: P. Tierney, 69).

NOTTS COUNTY (4-4-2): D. Ward, S. Deny, M. Murphy, G. Scudder, J. Barnborough — C. Bowers, P. Dobby, M. Richardson, A. Agos, T. Battersby, G. Jones, G. Martindale. Referee: D. Allison.

Croydon one victory away from double

Croydon 3
Clitheroe 0

By WALTER GAMMIE

CROYDON go into the final match of the Women's Premier National League season, against Arsenal tomorrow, needing victory to complete a league and cup double (Sarah Fordie writes).

They picked up four points from their two matches at the weekend, with three coming from the clash with Doncaster Belles, their rivals for the title, on Saturday.

Stead plays by the book

Brigg Town 3
Clitheroe 0

By WALTER GAMMIE

FOR the second day running, a Wembley final was illuminated by a textbook goal. Carl Stead's strike might not win lasting acclaim beyond north Lincolnshire, but the goal that won Brigg Town on the way to winning the FA Carlsberg Vase yesterday could not have been dispatched better by Eric Cantona himself.

Taking a half-cleared cross by Simon Roach on his chest, Stead struck the ball perfectly on the bounce with his left foot to beat Carlo Nash, the Clitheroe goalkeeper, from 20 yards. The goal, in the 37th minute, swung an evenly-matched contest the way of the Northern Counties East League side.

Daily goal may prove invaluable

Partick Thistle 1
Dundee United 1

By KEVIN MCCARRA

THE pair of Dundee United supporters who arrived before the game had, given the financial issues, picked an apt fixture. A club that loses its top flight status forgoes around £1 million a year.

As if there were not enough to fear, this encounter also contained an element of chance. The startlingly bad surface at Firhill — churned and pitted — will make the most skilful player look inept at times. Local knowledge does not even seem to be of benefit, for Thistle last won there on December 2.

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Ferguson



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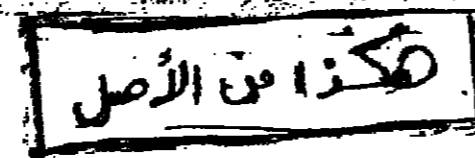
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Ferguson's kids keep faith with Busby's rich legacy



Ferguson: exceptional by any standard

Extolling the virtues of Alex Ferguson's young, remodelled team in achieving a second double in three years, a BBC Radio commentator excitedly made the comparison that "the Busby Babes never even did it once". True enough, but we should pause before declaring that Ferguson's status equals, or exceeds, that of Sir Matt Busby.

Ferguson is an exceptional manager by any standard, and not merely in the matter of winning trophies. He has, like Busby, an uncanny knack of helping players to lift themselves, to perform up to or beyond their capacities. Yet what separated the two teams, so surprisingly, on a prosaic afternoon at Wembley was that Manchester United, more than Liverpool, delivered a collective, patient team performance; especially the youngsters.



David Miller contends it is too soon to promote the United manager's record above that of a famous forerunner

It is significant that, of the five post-war managers with sustained success in England — Busby, Shankly, Nicholson, Paisley and Ferguson — three have been Scots. It has something to do with a blend of discipline and passion, and the communication of these qualities to the players, both young and old. Bryan Robson, who never played under Busby, tells how the old man always advised him that "you should play for fun, otherwise there's no point".

The communication between Ferguson and his men is all too evident, both when they regained the league title against Middlesbrough and now again at Wembley. The warmth of the embraces was sincere, not histrionic: a bond that was apparent when I first interviewed Ferguson, many years ago at Aberdeen.

The warmth, the benevolence, in victory and defeat, Ferguson's eyes are unusual. They can be cold and harsh when he is angry, but a smile returns to the eyes whenever he talks about what his players give to the club, to the game, to him.

His players have now reached the heights because they ended the season with a remarkable spell of sustained resolve. Giggs, whose talents are so often equivocal, and Beckham gave the kind of determined display that Ian Callaghan and others long ago made the hallmark of Liverpool.

Moment of genius decides moribund final

Cantona confirms his place among the greats

Liverpool 0
Manchester United 1

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IN SPORT, as sometimes in life, an hour of boredom can be transcended by a moment so sweet, so unexpected, that it seemed to be preordained. Such a moment came at almost the end of a moribund FA Cup Final at Wembley on Saturday when Eric Cantona, of course, scored the only goal.

Beckham through a crowd of bodies. This time, he could only fist the ball, and who should it then take a deflection off but Ian Rush.

Rush, brought on as a substitute for the 67th and final appearance of an exalted Liverpool career, could not get out of the way and, after hitting his shoulder, the ball dropped to the only man who could have scored such a difficult goal.

The ball, in fact, landed too close to Cantona. Neither you nor I could then have shown



such control of mind over body to move ourselves backwards just 18 inches, and then to strike the ball with the right foot with such venom and such precision that, at very least, it was on target for the back of the net.

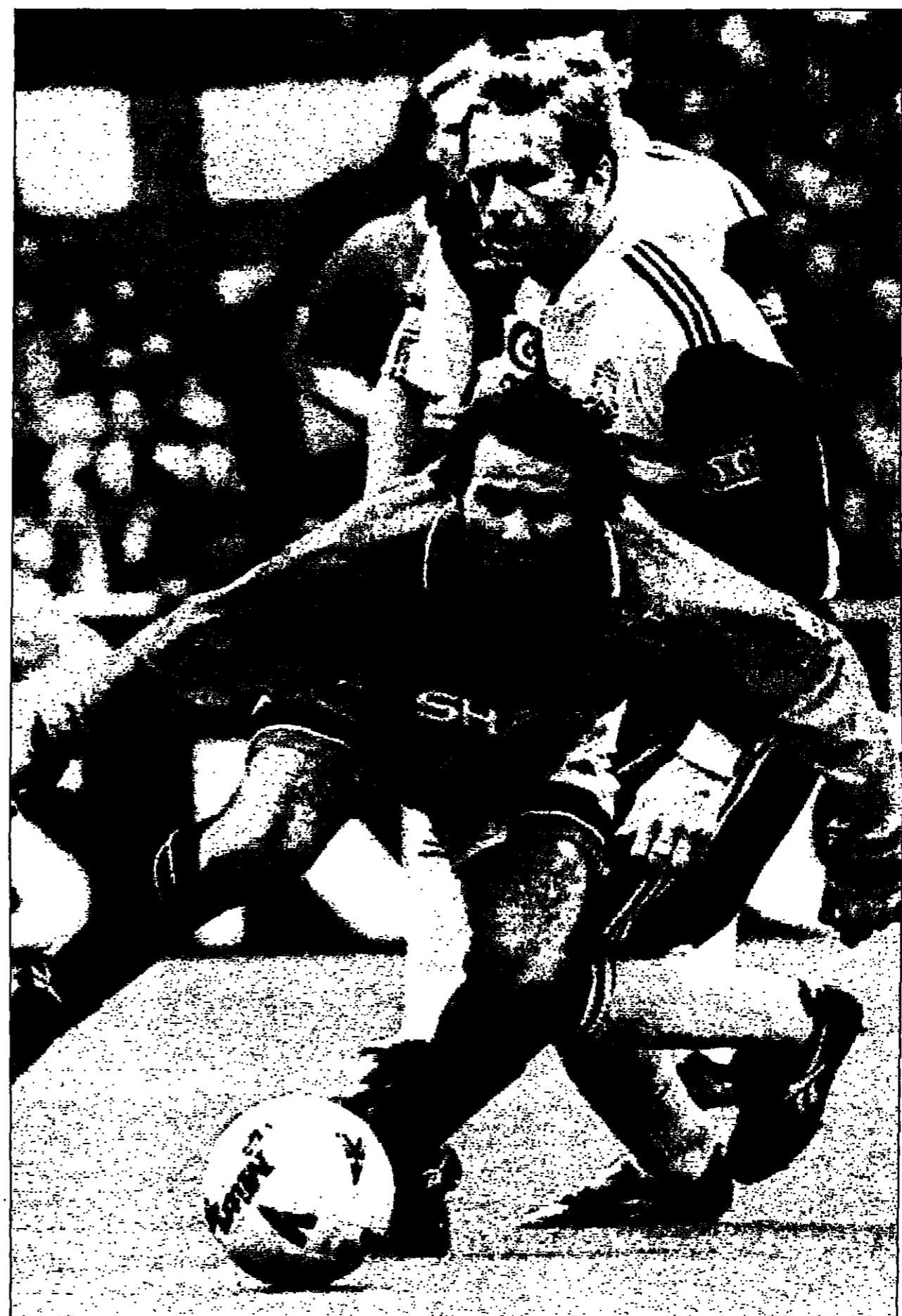
Sublime skill, but again and again one tries to fathom the magnetic quality that puts Cantona in such a position that he, and possibly he alone, can turn a match, particularly one in which he had been peripheral.

Certainly his contribution over the 90 minutes was little compared to the breathtaking physical feat of Roy Keane who, temper controlled for most of the match, helped to shape the boredom by sacrific-



Keane, who proved so influential for United, faces up to the threat of Fowler

ing his surging spirit in a role in front of United's back four, snuffing out not only the athleticism of McManaman, but also stifling, at source, the rather tepid midfield leadership of the white-booted John Barnes.



Giggs, the United forward, receives the ball as Scales, the Liverpool defender, closes in to suppress the threat

Supporting cast tell tale of two cities

Michael Henderson says that Cantona's winning goal was a fitting riposte to the excesses of sections of the Liverpool crowd

The art of captaincy, Ian Chappell has said, is keeping those players who think you are a bastard away from those who are not quite sure. Australia's cricketers were eventually grateful for Chappell's bastardy and Manchester United's supporters would feel terribly deprived this morning were it not for Alex Ferguson's contrariness.

The United manager's achievement this season is without parallel in the history of English football. To win a second double in two years with a young team that is, at best, half-formed, boggles the mind. One could argue that this side is not the match of some that failed to win the old first division championship, but the deeds speak for themselves, and the anxious doubters have been routed.

Wembley saw the best of English football neither on the field nor off it. It was a poor game, adorned by an extraordinary goal. That Cantona scored it was entirely apt. He has illuminated the

season and his qualities of intuition, balance and power were evident in that volley. It was a pearl, and all the more satisfying for being cast before swine.

With swift repositioning and a snap of his right foot, the Frenchman silenced those Liverpool supporters who had spent the previous two hours showing the world how adorable they are. A group perched below the Royal Box spent most of the time waving their arms to imitate planes, a reference to the Munich air crash. Their faces were portraits of sheer hatred, undiluted by any trace of humanity.

Advertisement for Daktarin Spray Powder, featuring an image of the product and text: "Accept no Substitute to beat Athlete's Foot".

Smith allows sorry Sussex no respite



BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

HOVE (Sussex won toss): Warwickshire beat Sussex by eight wickets

THE result will surprise nobody for these teams look leagues apart and, if English cricket was competitively restructured, doubtless would be. Yet there were moments yesterday when the victory that Sussex need so urgently to restore a measure of pride seemed attainable — positions, indeed, from which a team with any self-confidence would probably have won.

lin, there was a deep deflation, so that the eventual outcome seemed predetermined even before Neil Smith put it beyond doubt with his maiden Sunday league century and an unbroken stand with Dominic Ostler of 214, a county record. Warwickshire, like Sussex, lost their first three matches in this competition last season. Unlike Sussex, they rallied to such effect that they lost the title to Kent only on run-rate. Believing, as they do, that all things are theirs for the taking, they will probably put that straight this year, though they must be prepared to lose Smith to the England team for the Texaco Trophy series in a fortnight's time.

Smith's World Cup role was not clearly defined. Was he the pinch-hitter who could also bowl mean off spin? Or the specialist slow bowler capable of runs in the lower order? It was never resolved, but he is certain to feature in the selectorial discussion of potential openers next weekend, having followed a dashing 80 in the Benson and Hedges Cup with 111 not out from 87 balls yesterday.

Surprisingly, for one of his reputation, Smith had made only four while Vaseb Drakes, bowling with more venom than he mustered in the championship fixture, dismissed Knight and Paul Smith. He built his innings with care, and only in his later stages, with Sussex flagging and Ostler a willing partner in mayhem, did he cut loose, seeing his side to victory with an insulating 5.5 overs to spare.

As with all one-day diversions, however, Sundays have their specialists. One such is Keith Greenfield, who was Sussex's leading runmaker in the league last year and their top scorer again yesterday. He made his 72 assistiduously, but it was utterly surpassed by Martin Speight, a player who can astonish, delight and infuriate in the time that it takes most ordinary batsmen to play themselves in.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Table with multiple columns listing cricket matches, teams, scores, and wicket-takers. Includes sections for Testley Challenge series, Gloucestershire v Indians, Hampshire v Essex, Lancashire v Leicestershire, Sussex v Warwickshire, and various county matches.

Indians feel backlash as Symonds puts case

By JACK BAILEY

BRISTOL (second day of three): Gloucestershire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 155 runs behind the Indians

LOOKING for young Turks to bolster England's fortunes in the Texaco Trophy against India this year and beyond, has become the name of the game. Alistair Brown and Adam Holloake, of Surrey have been mentioned, Mark Ealham, of Kent, has his supporters. Entering the lists yesterday, although for various reasons as something of a long shot, came Andrew Symonds, of Gloucestershire.

He came in during a delay while a broken stump was replaced with Gloucestershire on 38 for three, facing an Indian total of 406 and Srinath in full flight against the county that he served so well last season.

Srinath had plucked out Dawson, Lynch and Hancock during a spell of three wickets for nine runs in ten balls. Symonds's immediate response was to open his account with a square cut for four and a push through mid-wicket for a couple; from that point, it was plain sailing.

ward point, when he had made 101, was as close as he came to dismissal. It was enough to make a chairman of the England selection committee at least scratch his head.

Raymond Illingworth and company will still harbour doubts about selecting Symonds, after his unavailability last winter, no matter how many innings like this he produces.

Sandeep Patil, the Indian manager, has no such misgivings. "We are happy for England to pick any player who will deliver the goods", he said. "When he toured with the Australian Under-19 team, Symonds hammered us. We would welcome his entry into international cricket this summer."



Symonds pierces the leg-side field on his way to a century from 111 balls against the touring team at Bristol

Brown muscles into one-day frame

By PAT GIBSON

The Oval (Surrey won toss): Surrey (4pts) beat Kent by 150 runs

ALISTAIR BROWN did not just batter on the door of the England selectors demanding inclusion in their squad for the forthcoming one-day internationals against India. He hammered out his message on the roof of the Oval pavilion.

Foster's, the Surrey sponsor, has offered £50,000 to any batsman who can clear the building and Brown was within feet of claiming it when he drove the Kent bowler Julian Thompson straight back over his head and almost demolished the television commentary box. It is a shame that Raymond Illingworth was not sitting in it.

The recurring criticism of Brown during his four seasons at Surrey is that he does not know how to "stop" the ball but that hardly seems to matter. In the one-day game at any rate, when he can dispatch it whenever it came with such an array of shots. He is the most exciting stroke-maker in the land and if England are looking for someone to play as Jayasuriya did for Sri Lanka in the World Cup, he is the obvious choice.

Even Jayasuriya would have been pushed to match him yesterday in this AXA Equity & Law League match. Having "stopped" his first ball from Thompson as if to prove that he could do it, he sent his second soaring like an arrow over extra cover for six. His next ball went over long-on and with a third six, pulled over mid-wicket off Wren, that towering blow off Thompson and three cracking fours, he was past 50 from only 25 balls.

There were four more boundaries before his departure, bowled by Ealham as he went to drive.

Brown had struck 84 from 50 balls in an opening stand of 127 in 18 overs with Ward who had been quite content to admire his partner's handiwork from the other end, but now proceeded to wreak some havoc of his own.

They like to call themselves "the Crocydon butchers" and once Brown had brought the Kent bowlers to their knees, Ward was more than happy to carve them up with some lusty hitting of his own. He had already taken a slice of the action by driving Hooper over long-on for six and there were four more sixes to go with his seven fours as he accelerated to 112 off 136 balls, spurred on by the sound of more than £1,000 dropping into the collection boxes for his benefit.

The rest smacked of overkill as Surrey allowed their two Test batsmen, Stewart and Thorpe, to put their feet up while three more hitters, Adam Holloake, Lewis and Julian, took them to a total of 307 for five, the most runs Kent have conceded in 28 years of Sunday League cricket.

The champions were beaten and they knew it. They had contributed to their own downfall by dropping three catches and once they had lost their own pinch-hitter, Fleming, in the first over, only Hooper offered token resistance before they subsided to 150 all out.

Surrey had made history by including two sets of brothers, the Holloakes, Adam and Ben, and the Bicknells, Darren and Martin, in their side, but it was Brown who had made their day.

Law cast in Essex's finest mould

By IVO TENNANT

ESSEX do not make too many errors when it comes to choosing their overseas player. Think of Keith Boyce, Lee Irvine, Ken McEwan, Allan Border, Mark Waugh. Even Hange Page, the least successful, did not want for talent. Now, it would seem they have chosen wisely again. Stuart Law, the captain of Queensland, made his first century in the AXA Equity & Law League in a ten-wicket victory over Hampshire at Southampton.

Law, who was signed as a replacement for his compatriot, Waugh, reached a century off 90 balls and won the match with a six. There was another in his innings, as well as 12 fours. Robinson helped to bring about victory with more than seven overs to spare.

For Stephenson, the new Hampshire captain, this was not an entirely forgettable day. He carried his bat through his side's innings, hitting a six and 11 fours in an innings of 110 against his former county. As for him, it was never likely to be sufficient, for a total of 187 for five was too meagre for a side as well schooled in this form of the game as Essex.



Simmons enthusiastic

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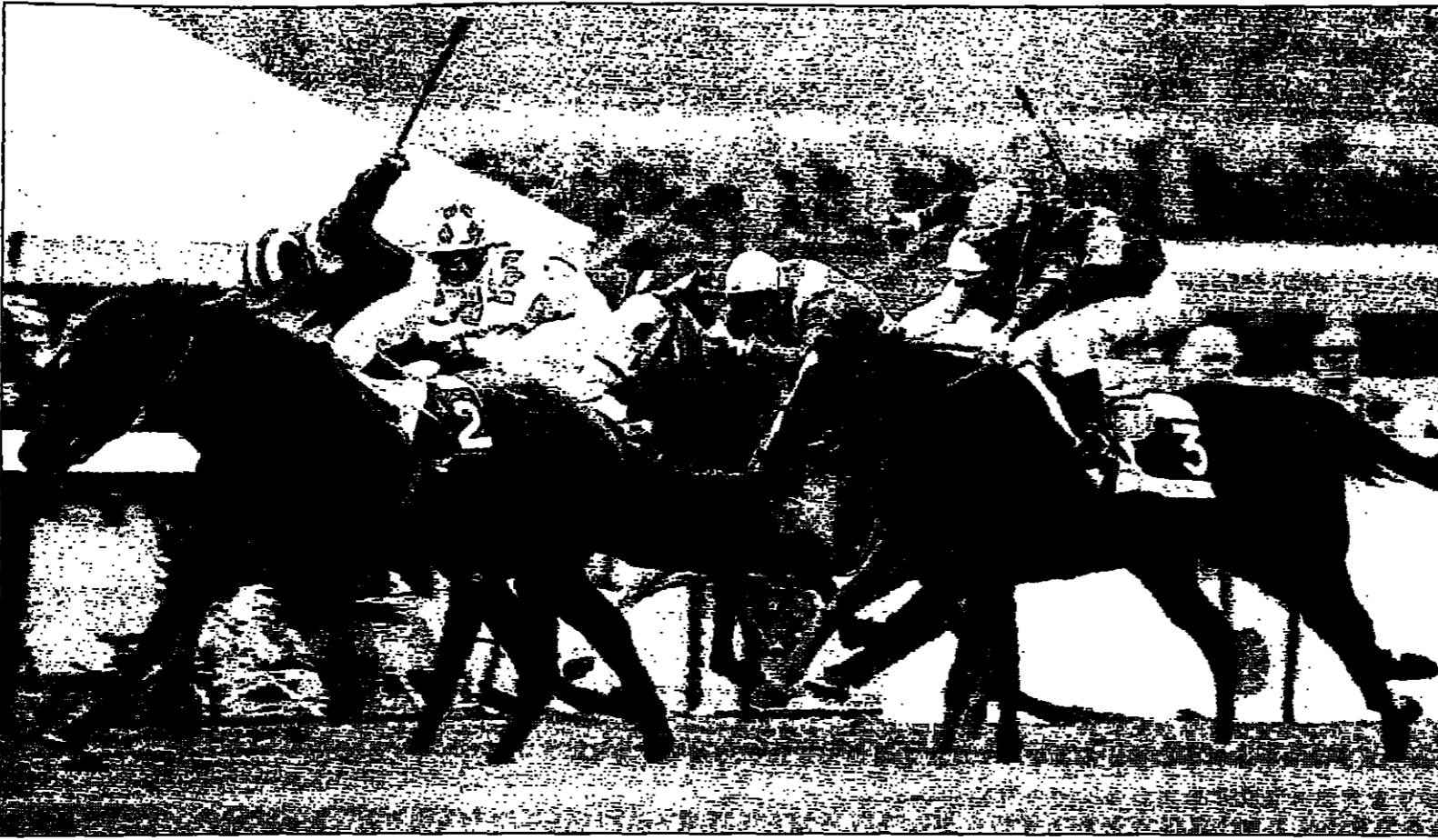
Ta Rib wins French 1,000 Guineas for young Newmarket trainer

Dunlop captures classic at first attempt

FROM JULIAN MUSCART AT LONGCHAMP

ED DUNLOP entered the classic records at the first attempt here yesterday when Ta Rib rose from obscurity to claim the Dubai Poule d'Essai des Pouliches (French 1,000 Guineas). It was a magnificent performance from the filly and all connected with her.

So nervous was the Newmarket trainer that he watched the race alone. And he could barely amplify his feelings when Ta Rib, a winner in maiden company at Newmarket seven days earlier, returned to a rapturous



Ta Rib and Carson hold off Shake The Yoke, right, in the Poule d'Essai des Pouliches at Longchamp yesterday. Photograph: John Crofts

reception. Fittingly, Dunlop's proud parents were on hand to celebrate the achievement, gained only after Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum, who owns Ta Rib, insisted she should take her chance.

Willie Carson rode a perfectly judged race, positioning Ta Rib just behind Godolphin's Shahrain for much of the one-mile trip. The jockey turned his mount loose approaching the final furlong and Ta Rib was never really threatened by the late rush of Shake The Yoke, the red-hot favourite. Carson said: "This is a big thrill. The filly has gone from winning a maiden to winning the French Guineas. What

more can you say?" And Dunlop, 27, said of Ta Rib: "I have always liked her but I was very worried about coming here so quickly after the win at Newmarket. It was the sheikh's wish and he was proved right." The victory will do wonders for Dunlop's morale. It has been a difficult experience for the young handler, who took over Sheikh Maktoum's Newmarket stable on the death of Alex Scott 18 months ago. Most of the staff stayed loyal

to the stable and Dunlop dedicated this victory to them. He is the third licence holder at Gainsborough Stables in six years. This triumph should now cement the new alliance. All those involved can now look ahead rather than reflect on the tragic circumstances behind Scott's death. Dunlop's father, John, has yet to land a French classic in his 31 seasons with a licence. His hopes might briefly have been raised when Kahir Almaydan took the lead from

Gothenberg in the Poule d'Essai des Pouliches. However, Kahir Almaydan's stamina failed him and he was eventually swapped into fifth place by a posse of late challengers. Tagula, the first to collar Kahir Almaydan, threatened to bring another classic back to Britain but he, too, could not resist the surge of Ashkalani. The winner, now unbeaten in four outings, represented a long overdue return to the classic scene for the Aga Khan. Cayman Kai made late

progress into fourth after a troubled passage but Don Michele, Danehill Dancer and Gothenberg all faded tamely to fill the last three places. Sadly, Ashkalani is not bred for 12 furlongs. Neither is the runner-up, Spinning World, who received a 16-1 quote for the Derby after finishing fastest of all here. Cash Amussen had trouble finding racing room at the end of a rough race and Spinning World looked capable of better. No decision on his participation at Epsom has yet been made.

Sangster revives Derby dreams

It was a throwback to the pre-Maktoum era. In two minutes of television the erstwhile late Robert Sangster, formerly landowner of the British Turf, sifted through his Derby candidates like a poker player eyeing his hand. The ace may be fewer these days but Sangster has clearly not forgotten how to shuffle the pack. The upshot was a welter of trade over Astor Place, who Sangster suggested had worked better than morning than Nash House. Sangster's words still strike a chord with the public, and Cora's offer of 33-1 had dissolved to 20-1 by the day's end. There was a time, 15 years ago, when Sangster's colts dominated the Derby battle. As do Maktoum runners today. His was the interview public. He could be indiscreet in the mood - much to the chagrin of his trainer, Vincent O'Brien, who maintained an Omerta-like silence.

the identity of their owners. Nevertheless, when Sangster dominated the sport, he did so with panache. He teased television audiences with his observations in advance of the classics. Nostalgia flooded the airwaves when he was at it again last week. Of course, it was Sangster who ingrained racing with its stock-market mentality. And that, in essence, tended to govern his words when interviewed. A few choice comments would nail a deal; it is a shade of odds-on that part of Astor Place will have been sold in advance of the Derby. For Sangster remains primarily a dealer in bloodstock. If racing has always been governed by high stakes. Derbys by day is the biggest deal of all. Bloodstock values mean little to the Maktoums but they mean everything to Sangster, who has twice prevailed at Epsom with The Minstrel and Golden Fleecer. Yet there have been disasters. The value of his El Gran

Senor diminished considerably when the colt was short-headed by Secret in 1984. And Dr Devious triumphed four years ago after Sangster had sold him nine months earlier for a paltry \$400,000. How times have changed. Sangster recently chose to describe his palatial Manton training complex as "a small, family-run stable" even though it houses up to five Derby candidates. Nash House actually belongs to the Weinstein family but Astor Place, Heron Island, Legal Right and Chief Contender all carry the Sangster legacy. Derby dreams are only fleeting; this week's trials at York may hole Sangster's boat below the waterline. However, most impartial observers will be hoping his horses come through. Should one of them make it all the way to the winner's enclosure at Epsom, it will make a nostalgic stroll down memory lane for the man who once bred for the sport like a Colossus.

Treble helps Jukes cement title claim

JAMIE JUKE'S strengthened his position at the head of the men's championship with a treble at the Llandefni Farmers' meeting in Wales on Saturday. His main rival, Alastair Crow, had to settle for a single success at the Golden Valley fixture. All the top riders enjoy purple patches, but to be champion it is necessary to knit the patches together. Jukes, 25, has been doing just that, taking his total from 11 a month ago to 30 on Saturday. Writing on odds-on Novices, Bluff predictable, but when Fox Point was pulled out of the men's open, Jukes was offered the mount on the Charlotte Williams-trained Moving Force, who duly won. Taking a fall on Buckley's Court in the restricted proved Jukes is fallible, but he then won on Warren Boy, trained by Tim Jones.

REDCAR THUNDERER 2.15 ATTON MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,750; 5) (14 runners)

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD 103 (12) 0-0822 GOOD TIMES (4) (D.F.S.) (S)

2.15 ATTON MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,750; 5) (14 runners)

2.45 KILTON CLAIMING STAKES (£2,750; 6) (14 runners)

FORM FOCUS DOCKLANDS CARRIAGE (1st) 2nd of 4 to fall

SEA-DEER neck 2nd of 8 to be held in claims at

3.15 KISS AND CUDDLE PROFESSIONAL LADY JOCKEYS HANDICAP (£3,127; 1m) (13 runners)

3.45 MACKINLAY MEMORIAL HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £3,491; 1m 2f) (17 runners)

4.15 DANBY MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O; £3,873; 1m 2f) (8 runners)

4.45 TEES HANDICAP (£3,483; 2m 4f) (6 runners)

5.15 HUNTLIFFE FLIES HANDICAP (£3,789; 7f) (11 runners)

THUNDERER 5.50 Troy's Dream, 6.20 Evangelica, 6.50 Emerald Rider, 7.20 Howgal, 7.50 Pastoral Pride, 8.20 Slingsby.

5.50 ST KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE SELLING HURDLE (£1,947; 2m) (10 runners)

6.20 BICESTER HUNT WITH WHADDON CHASE ALSO RANS NOVICES CHASE (£3,059; 3m 1f) (7)

6.50 ADEL REWINDS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,373; 2m 5f) (8)

7.20 BIT OF A CLOWN HANDICAP CHASE (£3,082; 2m 6f) (9)

7.50 LARRY CONNELL MEMORIAL HUNTERS CHASE (Amateur; £1,339; 2m 11f) (10)

8.20 PACEMAKER AND THOROUGH-BRED BREEDER NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,952; 2m) (8)

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS: Mrs S. Candlish, 13 winners from 21 races, 61.9%

WINDSOR 6.05 Eurobok Boy, 6.35 Classic Ballet, 7.05 Meranti, 7.35 Shining Example, 8.05 Sweet Emalina, 8.35 Robusta.

6.05 BRITISH RED CROSS CLAIMING STAKES (£2,899; 1m 6f) (21 runners)

6.35 VODAFONE HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £3,241; 1m 3f 135yd) (20)

COURSE SPECIALISTS WINDSOR: Trainers: Mr Jarvis, 8 winners from 24 races, 33.3%

7.05 PERIAL HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £4,026; 1m 21f) (18)

7.35 CADOGAN GROUP LIMITED STAKES (£3,715; 1m 2f) (14)

8.05 SUNLEY CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O; £4,601; 5f 10f) (5)

8.35 BOWRING GROUP MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O; £3,095; 1m 2f 7yd) (19)

RACELINE table with columns for race name, time, and other details.

TRAINERS table listing names and win percentages.

JOCKEYS table listing names and win percentages.

COURSE SPECIALISTS table listing names and win percentages.

REDCAR table listing race results with columns for race name, time, and runner details.

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Briton to meet Tyson or Bowe

Lewis strengthens title hand with disputed decision

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN NEW YORK

THE crowd of 17,000 at Madison Square Garden for the ten-round heavyweight bout in the early hours of Saturday did not like the verdict of the three judges. They did not think that Lennox Lewis had beaten Ray Mercer, even on a split decision (95-95, 96-95, 96-94). They thought that Mercer had won clearly, by three or four rounds and they chanted their disapproval.

The New York papers took the cry on Saturday. "Ripped Off" and "Lucky Lewis" the headlines screamed. Lewis has certainly lost on my card, by two rounds, but when his hand was raised at the end of the bout, it seemed poetic justice in a sport in which manipulation and corruption is considered good business practice.

It was Lewis who had been "ripped off" by boxing politics for the past year — and was still the victim. Mike Tyson would not accept his mandatory challenge because Lewis boxes for HBO and Tyson for Showtime. The two television companies are bitter rivals.

After a year of litigation, luck was now going Lewis's way at last. The win over Mercer has put him in an extremely strong financial position and has given him confidence that he can take on the best men in the heavyweight division.

day in August and I'd give him a birthday whipping." The bout could, indeed, take place at the end of the year. Should Tyson relinquish the title rather than be forced to meet Lewis, Lewis would have to meet Oliver McCall, the No 2 challenger, first, in September.

Seth Abraham, the head of HBO Sport, said that a three-bout deal about to be signed would commit Bowe to a contest with Lewis. Lewis would be Bowe's second opponent. The first would be Andrew Golota, of Poland, in July.

Referring to the controversial scoring in Lewis's bout with Mercer, Abraham said: "Lewis got a break. Bowe got a break. Rock Newman [Bowe's manager] got a break. Sometimes it is better to be lucky than good. If Lewis doesn't get Tyson, we will make Lewis-Bowe."

"I think Tyson will give up the belt. Tyson will fight Joe Louis before he fights Lennox Lewis. Despite what we saw tonight, Lennox is still a dangerous opponent for Tyson. That's the bottom line."

Panos Eliades, Lewis's financial backer, said: "Lennox-Bowe is a very big fight: bigger

for Lennox than the Tyson fight. Lennox and Bowe would share about \$50 million, \$25 million each. Rock Newman and I are talking, but first we must sort out the trouble with Tyson in court."

If Tyson does not give up the title, he must meet Lewis by September. The longer he waits the better for Lewis. He needs time to improve his defence — the job to keep Tyson out. Even though Lewis has a good jab, he did not use it against Mercer, who had no trouble out-jabbing Lewis, even though he is three inches shorter than Lewis.

Bowe said: "Lewis has got much better under Emanuel Steward, but there's still much for him to learn. He could not out-jab Mercer — when a shorter man out-jabs you, there's something wrong."

However, despite Lewis's failure to dominate the bout, under Steward, he has certainly improved greatly. He has learnt to battle his way out of a corner and deliver short combinations inside. It was breathtaking whenever he cut loose inside against Mercer, punching with speed to the body and head. If Steward can tighten up his defence by stiffening the jab, he would have a good chance of beating Tyson. "Ray Mercer put me under a lot of pressure — which is good for my fight with Tyson," Lewis said.

Steward said: "Mercer gave Lewis a harder fight than Tyson would. Mercer is a real tough guy. While Tyson is fighting nobodies like Bruno, who should have been in diapers when he fought Tyson, Lennox is fighting rough, tough guys. He showed how tough he can be and what a good chin he has when he punched it out with Mercer. Other British heavyweights would have collapsed."



The Bath Cup freestyle relay, staged by Otter Swimming Club at Crystal Palace, produces a breathtaking effort. Photograph: Deniz McNeelance

Campbell supply perfect parting gift

By JOHN GOODBODY

AT LEAST one teacher can retire content this summer. For the past 25 years, Campbell College, Belfast, has travelled to London to compete in the schools relay championships organised by Otter Swimming Club.

Throughout that time, the enthusiasm of Fred Parkes, the master in charge of swimming since 1964, has never waned.

He has always craved a victory in the Bath Cup, the annual freestyle event, founded in 1910. Third twice and second once, he thought that his squad might win in 1995. They finished second again in a time that would have taken first place in 1994.

Parkes retires in July and last Friday, at Crystal Palace, was his final chance of victory in a competition that attracted 64 entries from independent schools belonging to the Headmasters' Conference.

Campbell College have been Irish Schools freestyle champions for the past two years, but it is difficult to judge the strength of schools from the rest of the United Kingdom because there are not enough events to make an accurate assessment.

Parkes was worried about Nottingham High School after their showing in the heats of the 4x100 metres race. "I thought they were coasting," he said. "You can get fooled by heats' times. In 1977, we did the fastest time in the heats but came third in the final."

He thought that Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen, the winners last year, had three of their 1995 team back. "The problem was, we didn't know how much they had improved and how good their fourth member was," he said.

Parkes and Campbell College need not have worried. As Andy Hunter, a 53.7sec 100-metre sprinter came thrashing down the final length, Camp-



bell College finished five seconds clear of their rivals with Trinity School, Croydon surprisingly second.

The modern trend has been for talented swimmers to train with clubs rather than at school. Campbell have only two squad sessions a week. The rest of the time, team members such as Hunter, Andrew and Dennis Bree, Neil Cameron and James Hand are with their clubs.

Hunter said: "What I don't like about swimming is when

the alarm clock goes off at 5.25am four mornings a week for my first session with the Ards club." Fortunately, Ards is based at the Campbell College pool.

"What I particularly enjoy about swimming is going last on relays," Hunter said. "No one cares that much if you don't win as an individual, but when it is a relay, everyone is relying on you."

Hunter's father, Andrew, also coached by Parkes at Campbell College on his way to representing Ireland at the 1972 Olympic Games, said: "Fred is an enthusiast, but also a man who likes things done right. He does not permit any sloppiness."

Hunter Sr clocked 54.6sec for the 100 metres freestyle in 1976 and believes that the standard of coaching is particularly responsible for the improvement in times. "We did up to four hours a day in the water," he said. "Youngsters nowadays are not spending

more time swimming, but they are spending it more wisely."

In the Otter medley relay event, Leeds Grammar School edged out Nottingham High School with a squad of past and present members of the City of Leeds club. They dedicated the success to their former coach, "Pip" Williams, who died last year before she could see the school's first victory in the competition.

In the girls' events, City of London Freeman's School and Epsom College swapped first and second places in the freestyle and medley relays. Jennie Keith, the manager of the Freeman's team, who won the freestyle, said: "I think I was even more excited than the girls. I was skipping about. However, the commitment of the swimmers is quite outstanding. They train so hard at their clubs and they are the ones who wanted to be here."

Results, page 32



Lewis: lacked real spark

YOUR CHANCE TO BE PART OF THE BIGGEST FOOTBALLING EVENT IN BRITAIN SINCE THE 1966 WORLD CUP



Win tickets for Euro 96



STARTING TODAY, The Times offers you the chance to win tickets to the biggest sporting event in Britain for 30 years — the Euro 96 European soccer championships.

We have six pairs of tickets from the FA to give away — a pair for each of England's matches at Wembley against Switzerland, Scotland and Holland as well as a pair of tickets for the Wembley quarter-final, semi-final and final matches. It's your chance to see our boys in action as they take on Europe's best.

HOW TO ENTER

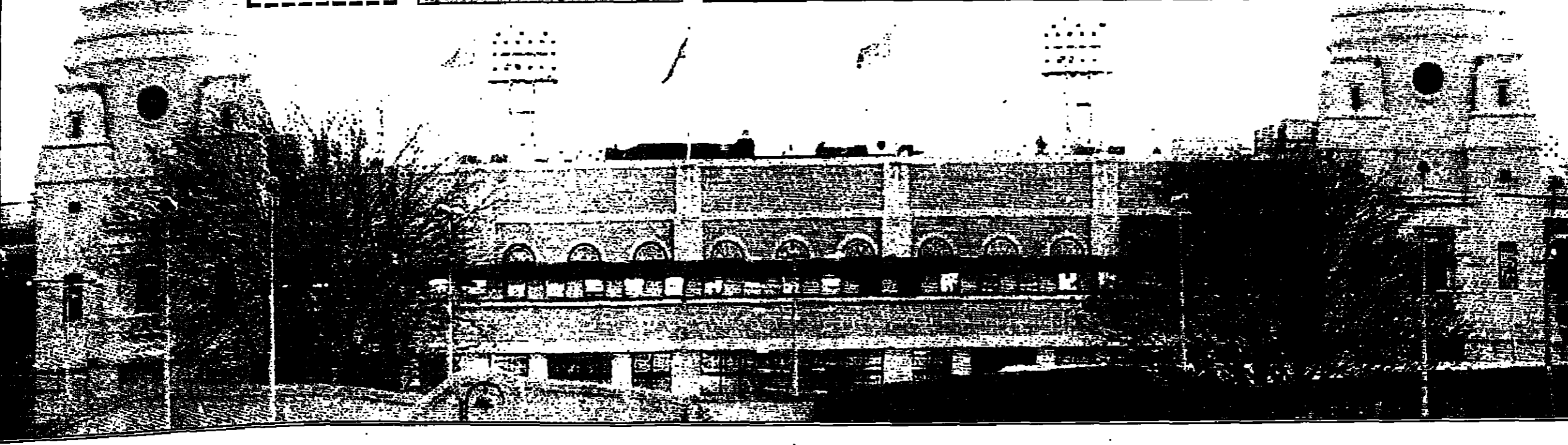
For your chance to be part of the biggest footballing event since World Cup fever gripped the nation in 1966 simply collect 10 differently numbered tokens from the 12 which will be printed in The Times until Saturday May 25. Token one appears below. Then attach the tokens to the official entry form which will appear with a competition question and address next Saturday. The closing date for receipt of entries is first post Wednesday May 29.

The winners will be the first six names selected at random from all correct answers received with 10 tokens attached. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply. The prizes available are tickets provided by the Football Association and may not be resold under any circumstances.

For credit or debit card purchases of tickets for individual games in the tournament call the FA ticket hotline number 099 099 1996. You can also purchase tickets for individual games by using an official ticket application form available from your nearest branch of Midland Bank.



EURO 96 COMPETITION WEMBLEY DATES	
England v Switzerland	Saturday June 8
England v Scotland	Saturday June 15
England v Holland	Tuesday June 18
Quarter-final	Saturday June 22
Semi-final	Wednesday June 26
Final	Sunday June 30



John Goodbody reports on the growing popularity of volleyball



Britannia Music City volleyball team, which is based in Hackney, east London: its spirit and dynamism and the players' agility are very impressive

A game to net new fans worldwide

In the spectacular kaleidoscope of movement and colour at the Olympic Games this summer, one event, beach volleyball, will be making a new impact on the Games. For the first time, it has been included in the programme, and the glamour of the sport is likely to excite billions of television viewers around the world.

This will also benefit its older brother, indoor volleyball, which has been part of the Games since 1964 and has more than 170 countries as members of the world governing body.

Anyone who has seen volleyball cannot fail to be impressed by its skill and athleticism.

David Miller, my colleague, who has probably seen a greater variety of international sport over the past 15 years

than any other journalist, wrote of the 1989 World Volleyball Cup in Japan that "it is tactically perhaps the most sophisticated of all team games".

Among the delights of volleyball are that it can be played indoors or out, on a variety of surfaces and by both sexes or in mixed teams. Recreational games can also be held in smaller areas than the regulation 18 metres by 9

metres, which is only slightly smaller than a tennis court. Many of Great Britain's firefighters use their cramped yards for volleyball games between call-outs.

Like so many sports, the popularity of volleyball in Britain does not reflect its international standing. Go to Brazil, where there are said to be more volleyball players than footballers. In Rio de Janeiro, there are 350 courts

on Copacabana Beach. Millions of people around the world have found the immense satisfaction of leaping up to the net, 2.43 metres above the ground (2.24 metres for women), then smashing the ball downwards so that a member of the opposing team cannot return it before it touched the ground.

Orthodox volleyball is six-a-side: beach volleyball two-a-side. If you are good at one, you are automatically good at the other. It is as close in technical and physical demands as cross country and road running; players are only slightly more suited to one or other of them.

Bruce Hertogs, who has recently started an indoor club at Maidstone, in Kent, said: "Though volleyball is a simple game, it is also tremendously involving mentally. It may not be a contact sport, but it is still

thought that basketball was too strenuous, so he invented volleyball.

Just how advanced this sport has become in Britain can be seen when you watch one of the leading clubs, Britannia Music City, which is based in Hackney, east London. The agility and commitment are impressive. So is the team spirit.

Janette Smith-Dacosta, 30, a part-time cashier and mother of two, said: "I love the dynamism of volleyball. It is an outlet for me away from home, although my children often come. They love watching me play."

Many of the women are at least 5ft 10in tall, particularly the spikers or smashers, who hammer the ball over the net. However, Steve Colpus, their coach, said: "This does not mean that a smaller player cannot make an impact on the game. They are often invaluable in defensive situations."

Vanessa Malone, 24, a nursing sister, plays six-a-side volleyball and beach volleyball. She said: "I think it is more difficult to play on the beach because it is so hard to run about on the sand. It was great entertainment last summer. We had competitions all around Britain. Bikinis were out in the hot weather and we even had a samba band at Tenby, in Wales."

So popular has beach volleyball become that sand has been imported into indoor arenas for winter competitions. At the Olympics this summer, a permanent beach volleyball stadium is being built beside a man-made lake 20 miles outside Atlanta.

Team Racal, consisting of Audrey Cooper and Amanda Glover, as No 12 seeds, will represent Britain in Georgia as the first national team ever to have a world ranking indoors or out. The tournament, enlivened by their bright costumes, shades and sunblock, will be like some desert island fantasy. *The Times* will certainly be there.

English Volleyball Association, 27 South Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7AG (0115 9816234)

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Most deals on which each side can make a large number of tricks involve a "double fit" - that is, each side has a fit in two suits. This is a recent example, from the high-stake game at TGR's.

Dealer West North-South game Rubber bridge

♠ 9872
♥ 975
♦ -
♣ KQ1075

♠ 4
♥ A865
♦ AK763
♣ J3

♠ A1063
♥ -
♦ 109852
♣ 864

♠ 94
♥ -
♦ A82

W N E S
Spade (7)
Heart (4)
Diamond (6)
Club (5)

W N E S
Spade (7)
Heart (3)
Diamond (5)
Club (5)

Final contract Six spades doubled, by South
Lead: Queen of diamonds

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kasparov stumbles

The game that cost Garry Kasparov first prize in the Moscow speed chess event at the end of last month showed his overweening self-confidence to disadvantage. In an equal position, Kasparov avoided a draw by repetition, but the move that he chose - Z7 Qb4 - was a terrible mistake that allowed Black a dangerous passed pawn.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Vladimir Kramnik
Moscow speed chess
April, 1996

Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4	Nc6
2 Nf3	Nf6
3 Bc4	Nb8
4 e3	e6
5 dxc5	exd5
6 Bb5	cd4
7 Nc4	Bd7
8 O-O	Bb6
9 Nf3	Be6
10 Bc2	Ba6
11 Be2	O-O
12 a3	Oe7
13 b4	Rhe8
14 Bb2	Be5
15 Nd4	h5
16 Nc2	h4
17 Ne4	Bb2
18 Nxb2	c5
19 hxe5	Qxe5
20 Nc3	Qd6
21 Nc4	Bc5
22 Bc3	Rcd8
23 Qd4	Bc4
24 Be2	Bf5
25 Bf3	Bd6
26 Be2	Bf5
27 Qb4	d4
28 Qxd6	Rxd6
29 Rf1	g5
30 Nf5	Nb5
31 Bf4	c3
32 Rf2	g4
33 R3	g3
34 Be3	Ree3

Diagram of final position

Correction

In *Winning Move* on Friday, David Bronstein challenged for the world championship once, not twice.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in *Sport* and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

SPORT FOR ALL

A game in progress: strategies are sophisticated

THE GREATEST

CHANNEL FOUR TELEVISION THE TIMES

TUNE IN AND CHOOSE BRITAIN'S GREATEST SPORTS STAR

Tonight, Channel 4's *The Greatest* gives you another chance in the series to vote for the Greatest British sporting hero of them all. And your vote will count in more ways than one, because it could win you a pair of tickets to the European football championship or even the top prize of a trip to the Olympic Games in Atlanta with Daley Thompson.

The main aim of the 12-part series is to bring some degree of scientific method to the comparisons so that a motor racing driver can be judged against a cricketer, a jockey against a footballer. You probably won't be able to put aside your prejudices completely - we all have our heroes, and our favourite sports - but *The Greatest* will open your mind to achievements and personalities you may not otherwise have considered worthy of greatness.

The cases for Jackie Stewart, Linford Christie, Bobby Moore, Tony Danaher, Mary Rand, Ian Botham, Barry John, Nick Faldo, Steve Overt, Bobby Charlton, Lester Piggott, Steven Redgrave, Kenny Dalglish, Denis Compton, Len Hutton and Sebastian Coe of the 20 shortlisted have been stated. Each week two contenders are examined and their relative merits discussed by the panel of Frances Edmonds, author and broadcaster, Dany Kelly, editor of *Total Sport*, and a guest celebrity (tonight it is Alan Wells). Chaired the debate is Gordon Kennedy. The final show will give the results and declare *The Greatest*. *The Greatest* is screened on Channel 4 on Mondays at 8.30pm and repeated on Saturdays at 10am.

TONIGHT'S CONTENDERS

FRED PERRY

The clause, "Fred Perry, the last British man to win the Wimbledon singles title", has been written almost every year since his third successive victory in 1936. It is recorded that he was longing to see broken, because he regularly attended the Championships as journalist and broadcaster and was a constant supporter of the British players. However, none of his successors has possessed his rare combination of technical excellence, athleticism and a fighting spirit. People are still aware of his feats at Wimbledon but what many do not know are his performances in the Davis Cup and the other leading championships.

Perry was the first player to win all four Grand Slam titles, collecting eight in all before he turned professional at the age of 27. He inspired Britain to four successive victories in the Davis Cup and in his career won 45 of his 52 matches in the competition.

He was a natural mover, with a long reach, a superb running forehand and was a genuine all-round sportsman, being world table tennis champion in 1929. However, what made him a champion was his unyielding determination. The son of a Labour MP, he was disliked by the All-England Club, partly because of his background and partly because he took the game so seriously. Perry was a pioneer of the sport. Although he was pre-eminent among his contemporaries, he played in an era when tennis had not been developed world-wide.

DALEY THOMPSON

Daley Thompson was John McEnroe with a sense of humour. Brilliant and boorish, Thompson also raised laughter wherever he went. Sometimes his achievements were stained by his controversial behaviour but he justified his way by suggesting that, if well-do people thought him offensive, the man on the street enjoyed his pranks. What was never questioned was Thompson's position as the world's finest decathlete. Uniquely, he held, in the mid-Eighties, the distinction of being Olympic, world, European and Commonwealth champion and world record-holder as well. Twice Olympic champion, he competed in four Olympics and set four world records. He was undefeated between 1978 and 1987.

In 1982 he was selected for a fifth Olympics, without having completed a decathlon for four years, a mark of his stature. But he could not achieve the qualifying mark and did not go. He retired from athletics and, just six months later, at 34, signed as a works racing driver for Peugeot. A ferocious competitor, he could not put sport down. This football season, at 37, Thompson was in Mansfield Town's first-team squad. As his success coincided with the golden age of British middle-distance running, he credited Coe, Overt and Cram, magnanimously, for drawing the public into his sport, and so to him. "I was doing an event that no one had ever heard of, so I was seriously in the back of nowhere," he said. But he was never going to be a nowhere man.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

You will be asked to score each sports personality in each of five categories. Each category carries a maximum of 20 points, so the total scores you give are out of a maximum of 100. The categories are:

- Achievement** - for honours won and overall record
- Dominance** - for quality of opposition, longevity and domination of peers
- Style** - for performance, technique, sportsmanship and image
- Fortitude** - for coping with pressure, will to win, self control and sporting intelligence
- Impact** - charisma and transcendence

THE PRIZES

Each week, Channel 4 and *The Times* will each be giving away a pair of tickets to the European football championship, courtesy of Carlsberg, the official beer of Euro 96, to the person who manages to match the average scores for both of that week's profiled sports personalities. In the event of a tie, a draw will take place. Ten runners up will each win a signed copy of Daley Thompson's book accompanying the series, *The Greatest* (Boxtree, £14.99).

At the end of the series, all the weekly winners will have the chance to win the greatest prize of all - a trip to the Olympics with Daley Thompson.

HOW TO REGISTER YOUR VOTE

By telephone: You can call *The Greatest* phoneline, on **0891 66 55 44**

Lines are open from 9pm until midnight tomorrow and from 10am on Saturday, when the show is repeated, until midnight on Sunday. Calls cost 39p cheap rate, 49p at other times.

By post: complete *The Times* entry form and send it to *The Greatest*, Week 9, PO Box 1413, London N1 8HY to arrive by noon on Friday.

	Achievement	Dominance	Style	Fortitude	Impact	TOTAL
FRED PERRY	<input type="checkbox"/> pts	<input type="checkbox"/> pts	<input type="checkbox"/> pts	<input type="checkbox"/> pts	<input type="checkbox"/> pts	<input type="checkbox"/> pts
DALEY THOMPSON	<input type="checkbox"/> pts	<input type="checkbox"/> pts	<input type="checkbox"/> pts	<input type="checkbox"/> pts	<input type="checkbox"/> pts	<input type="checkbox"/> pts
Name						
Address						
Daytime telephone						
Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Usual <i>Times</i> competition rules apply. Tick if you prefer not to receive further information from Channel 4 or <i>The Times</i> .						

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HOOKER'S GREEN

a. Shepherd's Bush
b. Green watercolour
c. A trout fly

MAKORE

a. Ebony inlay
b. Ritual humiliation
c. A redwood tree

MAKO

a. Japanese male pride
b. A jungle song-bird
c. The blue shark

MAKKOLI

a. Wheat beer
b. Sea broccoli
d. A loose silk gown

Answers on page 41

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Frese - Schroder, Marburg, 1951. This position looks safe enough for White, but Black now blew up his opponent's defences with a brilliant combination. Can you see what he played?

Solution on page 41

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THE TIMES MONDAY

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THE TIMES

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GOOD

Getting ahead of the field

In theory, it should be easier to win a higher education place this year...

John O'Leary introduces a five-day guide to degree entry

Few expect there to be any let-up in the pressure for entry to the most popular courses either this year or next...

Come September, either two A-level passes or success on vocational courses will secure a degree place somewhere...

When the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service reduced the number of choices available to applicants last year...

The old claim that all degrees are of equal quality and value is seldom heard today...

Although pockets of excellence are to be found throughout the higher education system...

institution stands in the new order is an invaluable starting point in the search for a place...

Over the next five days, The Good University Guide will attempt to fill some of the gaps...

For the first time, the main ranking will take account of the official assessments of teaching quality...

As in previous years, the guide will bring together the key indicators and make them accessible to readers who might not know of their existence...

Tomorrow we focus on student life and examine what makes Britain's favourite study centres...

A more detailed version of The Good University Guide will be published in paperback later in the month...

This year could be the calm before the storm in higher

education, with intakes frozen, an election imminent and the biggest inquiry into the subject for 30 years about to begin...

Those competing for places this autumn will already be well aware that competition remains fierce in popular areas...

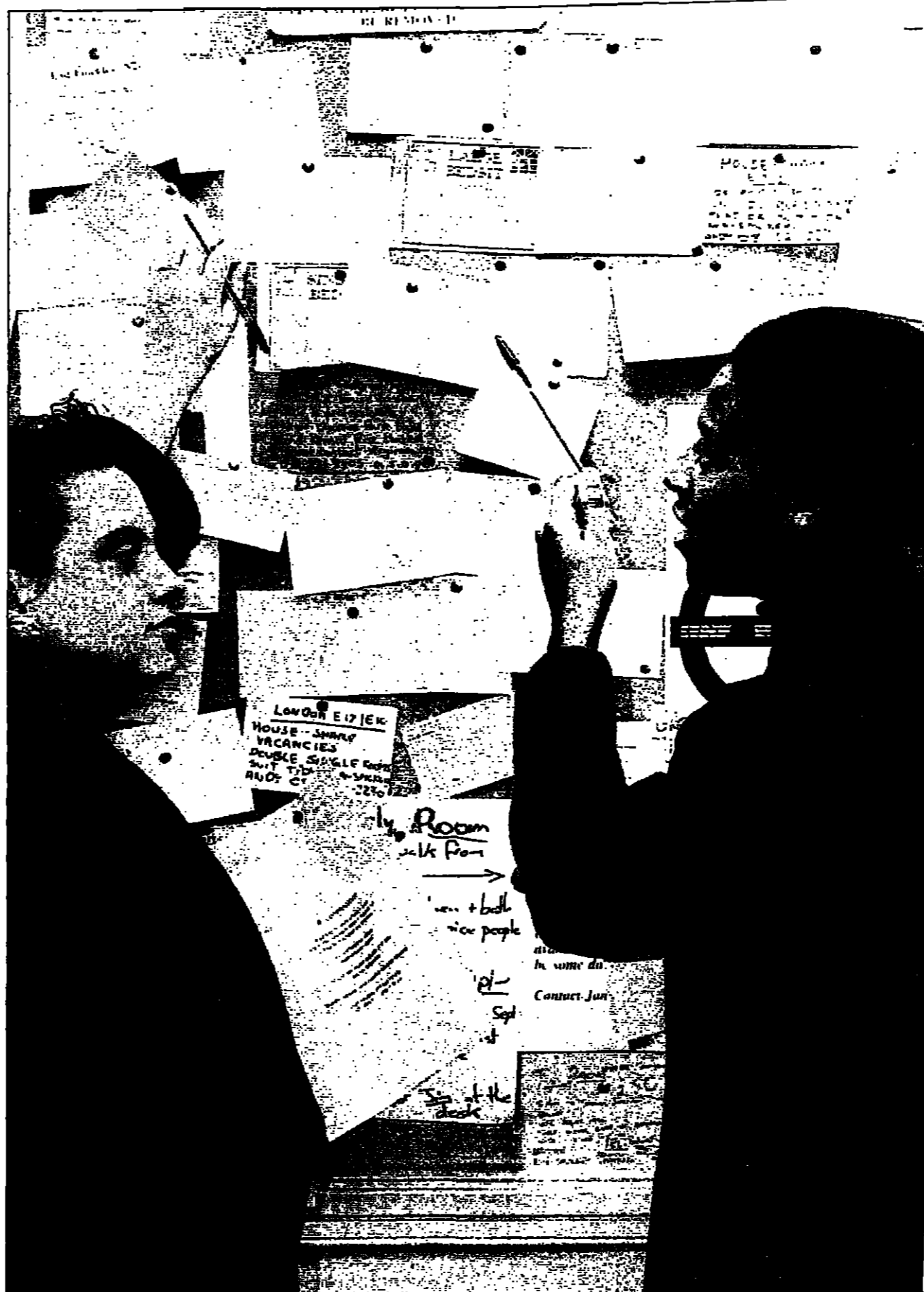
There is little reason to expect dramatic change next year. Sixth-formers and mature applicants are in the process of making choices for 1997...

Some branches of engineering are suffering another downturn in applications, but demand for medicine, dentistry, psychology and drama is buoyant...

Even graduates from prestigious universities now find that a degree no longer guarantees immediate employment...

Admissions tutors expect the applications system to settle down this year...

With no prospect of additional places in 1997, there would appear to be little point in delaying an application in the hope of easier entry...



Successful London University applicants check the accommodation lists at Senate House in Bloomsbury

Make the most of your assets

Colleges need help to decide whom to choose

Three-quarters of a page of A4 often makes the difference between getting a university place and being rejected...

The growth in student numbers over the past decade has meant that fewer applicants are interviewed...

Dr Enderby says: "If a candidate is not going to be interviewed, the personal statement is all the tutor has from them..."

In many cases, if a candidate is invited to an interview they are very close to an offer of a place...

Dr Enderby says: "If a candidate is not going to be interviewed, the personal statement is all the tutor has from them..."

Start early, stay flexible and read the instructions

Central system aims to smooth admissions

The official deadline for applying to start a degree course this autumn passed almost five months ago...

So flexible has the system become that in some subjects universities take students right up to the start of the academic year...

Academics' hands are tied to some extent by the Government's insistence that new intakes should remain frozen...

The result has been an increasing reliance on clearing, the process which matches rejected applicants to vacant places...

In order to speed up the clearing operation this year, entry forms will be sent in mid-July to candidates who have been rejected by all their chosen universities...

However, most users of the Good University Guide will be considering an application for 1997...

Oxford and Cambridge have an earlier deadline of October 15 and applications are made to colleges...

Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 3SA.

Candidates may apply to six universities and will be allowed to hold a maximum of two offers if they get that many...

From November onwards, admissions tutors will make conditional offers based on A-level points or vocational qualifications...

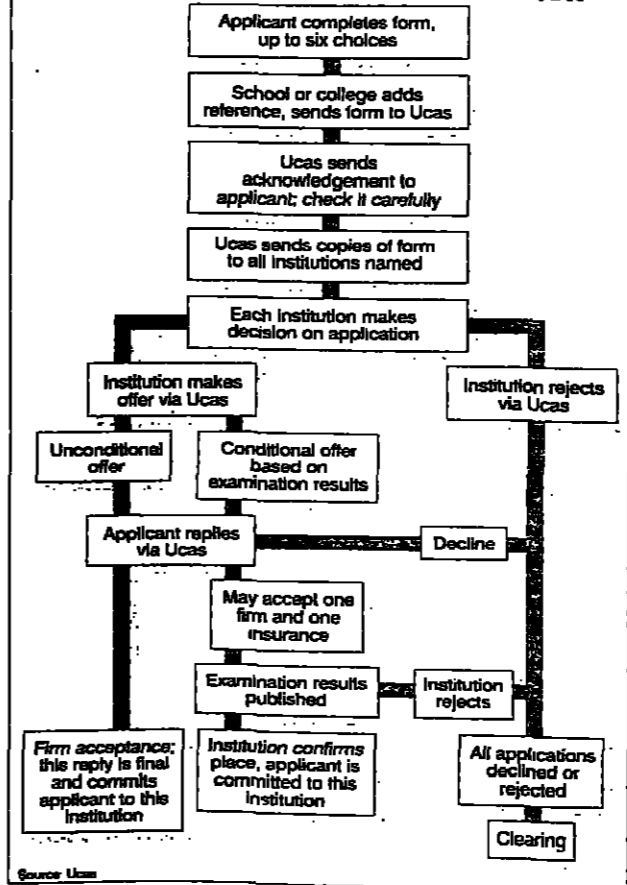
Others will either be made

firm offers of a place on the basis of existing qualifications, or be rejected and left with clearing...

Successful candidates are advised to make the earliest possible application for a grant from their local education authority...

JOHN O'LEARY

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR APPLICATION



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University of Surrey, Guildford GU2 5XH

هكذا من الأصل

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'It's open an Ox', 'CAMBRIDGE COLLE', and 'Making your choice'.

UNIVERSITY GUIDE



5

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It's open season for an Oxbridge place

You may be surprised to hear that our two most prestigious, wealthy and traditional universities are feeling a little insecure. Central government, they claim, appears not only to be trying to undermine the autonomy of their collegiate systems but also to be denying them the necessary funds to maintain their standard of education and research.

On top of this there is a growing feeling in the senior common room that they may be losing the increasingly fierce competition to attract applicants. For those at present thinking of storming the Oxbridge citadel, here are a few comforting thoughts.

The ratio of applicants to places at both universities levels out at about three to one. There is a considerable difference between courses within this bald statistic. English and law may have as many as nine applicants to one place, compared with a science course where demand may be considerably less. Some colleges, usually the central, oldest, richest ones may also be more popular than the others.

But the fact remains that even an applicant applying to the most popular course and college has fewer rivals to compete with than someone applying to an over-subscribed course at some other universities, where the ratio may be as high as 20 to one.

Of course, those who apply to Oxbridge are more selected or self-

Oxford and Cambridge may turn out to be surprisingly eager to offer you an opportunity, says Graham Lacey

selecting than applicants to other universities, but one should not fall for the myth that they are all geniuses.

There was a rise in applications of 4.8 per cent to Cambridge last year, but those to Oxford slipped by 2.8 per cent. These relatively encouraging figures disguise a growing concern in both institutions. In short, a conflict is emerging between the desire to maintain their academic identity and standards and the need to continue to attract the desired quality as well as quantity of applicants.

The fear that Oxbridge will soon be left stranded on an island of academic purity and excellence in a sea of vocationalism and mediocrity was recently implied by an admissions tutor to me: "What should we do to attract more applicants to our subject? Over the

years, other universities have been forced to be much more sensitive to the wishes of the market for their courses even if this has meant, in some cases, a lowering of academic standards.

An instinctive conservatism may partly have led Oxbridge to resist travelling down this unpredictable road, but a worthy concern to protect academic standards must have been the main obstacle. But how much longer can Oxbridge continue to defend an identity which may be becoming increasingly less valued by the members of their potential market?

Then there is the issue of the reform of the admissions system.

Both universities, but especially Oxford, appear to have been caught in between trying to make themselves as accessible to as wide a market as possible, and turning their admis-

sions procedure into a lottery.

Until a few years ago, the sifting of an entrance exam was a compulsory filter. Now, apart from the interview and the relatively untried experiment of submitted work or a test during the interview period, admissions tutors have little to go on other than the school reference and predicted grades.

As more and more school-leavers are predicted and achieve straight As, predictions have become of corresponding, less value. Anyway, it is said that fewer students admitted with straight As can be relied upon to start the course with a sufficient base of knowledge.

The prospect of further reform of the admissions system is a reflection of the deep unease admissions staff feel about the future. If complacency has ever pervaded the corridors and cloisters of Oxbridge colleges, it is rapidly disappearing.

Prospective applicants may be surprised to hear that no longer are academic staff perched in ivory towers. In fact, they may want you as much as you want them, for their future prosperity will partly depend on attracting the right applicants just as yours might on being accepted.

If you are of suitable academic calibre, feel you would be at home at the university and on the chosen course, and would receive your school's support, do not be overawed. You might just surprise yourself.

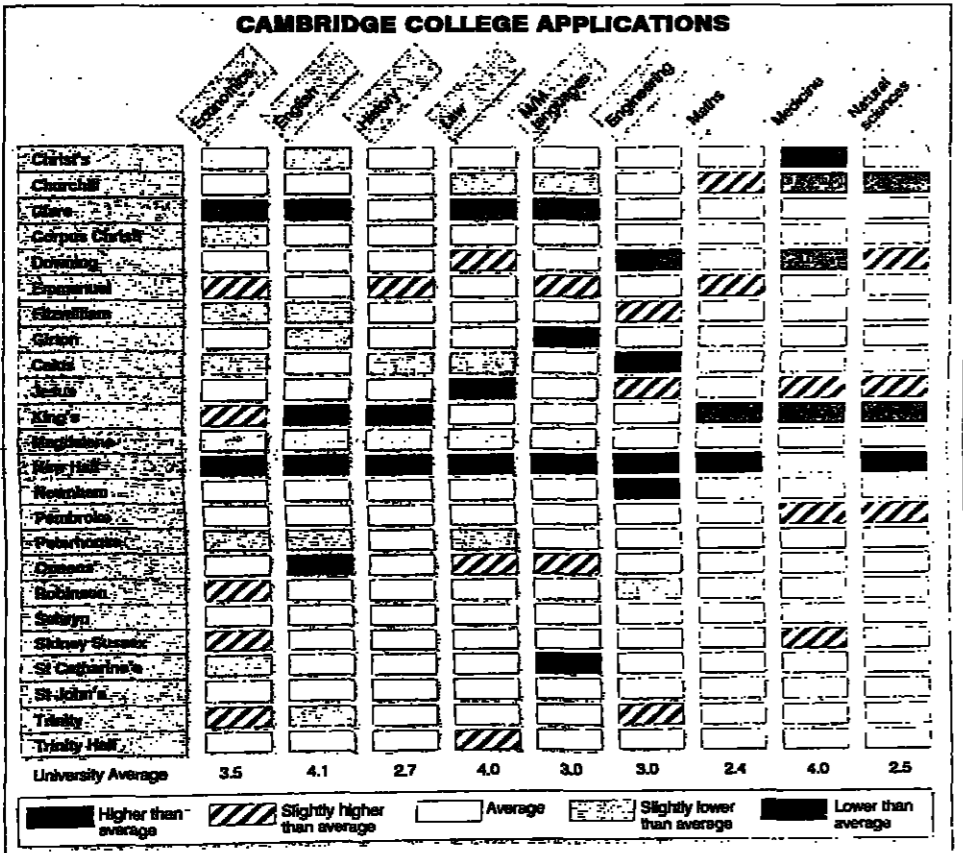
● The author is head of careers at Sevenoaks School.



Cycling students in Cambridge: do not fall for the myth that all applicants to Oxbridge are geniuses

TOMORROW

The changing student population: what makes Britain's favourite study centres, living on a student grant and working your way through college.



Making your choice

CHOOSING between Oxford and Cambridge is only the start of the ambitious student's dilemmas. Selecting the right subject and college makes all the difference.

Rather than try to second-guess a college, better to use hard facts to narrow down the choices. The tables and graphics on this page are a good starting point, as are the Norrington and Tompkins tables, which record undergraduates' results.

The two tables show, for instance, that classics and theology offer a much better prospect of a place than other arts subjects. Metallurgy at Oxford is the best bet of all for those with the right A levels.

Norrington and its Cambridge counterpart come in for heavy criticism from dons, but they do show the uninitiated which are the academic powerhouses. Corpus Christi was last year's top Oxford college, with Magdalen and Balliol close behind.

OXFORD

Subject	Applications 1994	Applications 1995	Acceptances 1994	Acceptances 1995	% success 1994	% success 1995
Arts	55	39	16	19	29.1	48.7
Ancient and Modern History	45	37	17	20	37.8	54.1
Archaeology and Anthropology	182	191	119	134	65.4	70.2
Classics	26	13	8	7	30.8	53.8
Classics and English	35	20	14	13	40.0	65.0
Classics and Modern Languages	331	289	44	22	13.3	7.6
Economics and Management	1,041	983	288	288	28.5	29.9
English	99	88	24	24	24.2	27.3
English and Modern Languages	17	16	23	22	41.2	13.3
European and Middle Eastern Languages	272	250	106	108	38.0	37.6
Fine Art	844	925	245	285	28.9	27.9
Geography	285	222	21	20	7.1	9.0
Law	62	38	27	22	43.5	37.9
Law with Law Studies in Europe	794	729	290	278	37.0	38.4
Mathematics and Philosophy	47	33	8	10	17.0	30.3
Modern History	57	92	11	11	19.3	12.0
Modern History and Economics	89	71	27	31	30.3	43.7
Modern History and English	459	437	189	208	43.4	47.6
Modern History and Modern Languages	118	110	11	11	9.3	10.0
Modern Languages	86	97	43	45	50.0	46.4
Musical Studies	98	53	23	20	23.5	37.7
Philosophy and Modern Languages	80	71	27	27	33.7	38.0
Philosophy and Theology	41	50	10	18	24.4	36.0
Physics and Philosophy	998	916	293	284	29.4	22.8
PPP	65	68	41	44	63.1	64.7
Theology	158	127	98	86	62.7	67.7
Sciences	157	181	88	87	56.1	48.1
Biochemistry	258	282	184	185	71.5	65.6
Biological Sciences	45	31	1	1	2.2	3.2
Chemistry	47	35	34	35	72.3	77.8
Computation	376	324	122	123	32.4	38.0
Earth Sciences (Geology)	71	60	26	26	37.0	43.3
Engineering Science	77	108	24	28	31.2	26.4
Engineering and Computer Science	17	15	10	8	58.8	53.3
Engineering, Economics and Management	142	145	41	53	28.9	36.6
Engineering and Materials	122	102	43	39	35.2	38.2
Experimental Psychology	147	151	49	49	33.3	32.4
Human Sciences	52	73	25	34	48.1	46.6
Mathematics	679	636	99	97	14.6	15.2
Mathematics and Computation	29	34	2	1	6.9	2.9
Medicine	451	454	189	189	42.5	37.2
Metallurgy and MEM	37	26	14	13	37.8	50.0
Physics	181	152	42	42	23.2	27.6
Physical Sciences	8,706	9,380	3,221	3,276	33.0	34.9
PPP						
Total						

CAMBRIDGE

Subject	Applications No	Applications %	Acceptances No	Acceptances %	Ratio
Arts	44	-	14	-	31.8
Anglo-Saxon	186	2	62	2	36.7
Archaeology and Anthropology	217	2	42	2	19.3
Architecture	150	1	9	1	6.0
Classics	765	7	197	6	25.7
English	299	3	90	3	30.1
Geography	550	6	201	6	36.5
History	636	8	212	7	33.3
Modern and Medieval Languages	147	1	63	2	42.9
Musical Studies	80	1	20	1	25.0
Philosophy	125	1	44	1	35.2
Theology and Religious Studies	78	1	35	1	45.0
Social Sciences	782	7	175	6	22.3
Economics	77	1	28	1	36.4
Land Economy	930	9	205	7	22.0
Law	374	4	101	3	27.0
Social and Political Sciences					
Science and Technology	254	2	65	2	25.6
Computer Science	458	4	218	7	47.8
Mathematics	56	1	12	1	21.4
Mathematics with Computer Science	64	1	17	1	26.6
Mathematics with Physics	1,594	15	603	10	38.5
Natural Sciences	1,136	11	504	10	36.8
Engineering	994	10	239	8	24.0
Medical Sciences	518	5	78	2	14.5
Veterinary Medicine					
Total	10,392	100	3,115	99	30.0

Take a course in economics before you go to university

You may not have decided which university to go to yet, or even which subject to study. But you can start preparing yourself for student life early. And it only takes a basic understanding of economics to realise that, with interest on your money and the flexibility to develop your account as your needs change, a Barclays Student Bank Account is a sensible choice. So if you're interested all you need to do is keep your eyes peeled for the 1996 UCAS admissions mailing, coming through your door in June. You can then register for an account opening pack and take advantage of a very special offer from Barclays.



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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of equity prices for various sectors including Alcoholic Beverages, Banks, Breweries, Pubs & Rest, Building & Construct, Building Materials, Chemicals, Diverse Industrials, Engineering, Engineering Vehicles, Food Manufacturers, Healthcare, Household Goods, Insurance, Investment Trusts, Leisures & Hotels, Mining, Oil & Gas, Other Financial, Pharmaceuticals, Printing & Paper, Property, Retailers Food, Retailers General, Support Services, Textiles & Apparel, Transport, Water, and Alternative Inv Market.

Table of equity prices for various sectors including Alcoholic Beverages, Banks, Breweries, Pubs & Rest, Building & Construct, Building Materials, Chemicals, Diverse Industrials, Engineering, Engineering Vehicles, Food Manufacturers, Healthcare, Household Goods, Insurance, Investment Trusts, Leisures & Hotels, Mining, Oil & Gas, Other Financial, Pharmaceuticals, Printing & Paper, Property, Retailers Food, Retailers General, Support Services, Textiles & Apparel, Transport, Water, and Alternative Inv Market.

Advertisement for Viglen PCs for Business. Features include Small Investment, Better Dividends, and Viglen. Includes contact information: CALL 0181 758 7000.

Table of bond prices and yields, categorized by maturity (SHORTS, LONGS, UNDATED) and index (INDEXED ON projected inflation).

Table of equity prices for various sectors including Alcoholic Beverages, Banks, Breweries, Pubs & Rest, Building & Construct, Building Materials, Chemicals, Diverse Industrials, Engineering, Engineering Vehicles, Food Manufacturers, Healthcare, Household Goods, Insurance, Investment Trusts, Leisures & Hotels, Mining, Oil & Gas, Other Financial, Pharmaceuticals, Printing & Paper, Property, Retailers Food, Retailers General, Support Services, Textiles & Apparel, Transport, Water, and Alternative Inv Market.

Large advertisement for Enjo, featuring a '£10,000' offer and 'Fast-Lan' branding. Includes a 'RESULTS AND STATISTICS' section and a 'SEE OUR' slogan.

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Fenner, Kunick.
Finals: Anglo Pacific Resources, Foreign & Colonial Eurotrust.
Economic statistics: Producer prices (April).

TOMORROW

Interims: Allied Domecq, BOC Group, Diploma, Gartmore European Investment Trust, General Accident (first quarter), Jupiter European Investment Trust, Scottish Value Trust, Sedgwick Group (first quarter), UPF Group.
Finals: British & American Investment Trust, Edinburgh Investment Trust, Invesco Blue Chip, Westbury, South African Breweries.
Economic statistics: New construction orders (March), Bank of England quarterly inflation report.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Century Inns, Charles Sidney, Chemex International, Commercial Union (first quarter), Fidelity Japan OTC, Flextech (first quarter), Greenalls Group, Richards, Shaftesbury, Telewest (first quarter).
Finals: Appleby Westward, Argyll Group, the Bank of Ireland.
Economic statistics: Unemployment (April), average earnings (March), unit wage costs (March).

THURSDAY

Interims: Ahis, British Gas (first quarter), Burton Group, Compass Group, Concentric, Grand Metropolitan, Hanson, Overseas Investment Trust, Scottish Radio Holdings.
Finals: British Telecom, City of Oxford Investment Trust, Cox Insurance Holdings, Fine Art Developments, Greenway Holdings, Greycoat, Time Products.
Economic statistics: Retail prices (April).

FRIDAY

Interims: Bibby (J) & Sons, General Cable, Morgan Grenfell Equity Income Trust.
Finals: Berry, Birch & Noble, Celis International, Environmental Inv. First (Ireland Investment), Foreign & Colonial German Investment Trust.
Economic statistics: PSBR (April).

COMPANIES PHILIP PANGALOS



BT looks poised to ring up £3bn

BRITISH TELECOM: Falling redundancy charges are expected to help the telecoms giant, which is headed by Sir Iain Vallance, to ring in a healthy performance that could see full-year profits approach the £3 billion mark.

BZW expects final pre-tax profits, due on Thursday, to climb to £2.96 billion (£2.66 billion), with a dividend of 18.7p (17.7p) predicted. Market forecasts range from £2.92 billion to £3.03 billion.

Analysts expect BT, which recently saw the breakdown of a possible £35 billion merger with Cable and Wireless, to see little underlying growth, with the majority of any profits increase likely to be driven by a reducing redundancy charge. However, with OfTel, the industry regulator, staging roadshows across the UK to garner views on the level of future price caps on telecom services, the forthcoming price control review is all-important. Any information on regulatory relationships and likely dividend implications will be crucial.

ARGYLL GROUP: Healthy sales growth and reorganisation benefits should allow Argyll, the Safeway supermarket group, to check in with another strong advance in full-year profits when it reports on Wednesday.

The benefits of the Safeway 2000 reorganisation should help Argyll to overcome the worst effects of the recent "trolley wars". Supermarket groups have battled for market share, slashing prices on items ranging from petrol to bananas and baked beans in a bid to win customers.

Nick Bubb, of Mees Pierson, is looking for pre-tax profits to rise to £405 million (£375 million). A dividend of 13p (12p) is predicted. Market forecasts range from £400 million to £410 million.

ALLIED DOMECQ: The drinks group will unveil a poor set of interims tomorrow, reflecting weakness in the European spirits market and destocking in the United States. The company said in February that first-half pre-tax profits were expected to be down by about 20 per cent after difficult trading in its spirits business. Kleinwort Benson forecasts inter-



Sir Iain Vallance, BT chairman, was unable to salvage the merger talks with Cable and Wireless

im pre-tax profits of £320 million. Market forecasts range from £315 million to £340 million, against £403 million last time before £17 million of exceptional gains. The market range for the dividend is 9.6p to 12.25p.

GRAND METROPOLITAN: Low spirit prices are also thought to have held back profits at GrandMet, whose other businesses span Pillsbury to Burger King. GrandMet said in February that it was trading in line with expectations, with volumes up at its Pillsbury and Burger

King businesses, while the IDV international drinks business was in line with forecasts. The figures will also be boosted by a full contribution from Pet Inc, the US foods group acquired last year for £72 million. Colin Davies, at Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, predicts a £450 million interim profit before tax and exceptional, and a 5.9p dividend. Market forecasts range from £430 million to £466 million, against £442 million last time.

HANSON: The focus at Thursday's first-half results from the

Anglo-American industrial conglomerate will be on demerger plans, which involve Hanson splitting itself into four companies. The market will also be keen to hear what the group says about the integration of Eastern, the regional electricity group acquired last year for £2.5 billion. Excluding Eastern, UBS, the broker, expects the downturn at Quantum to fuel an acceleration in the underlying rate of decline in Hanson's operating profits from 11 per cent in the first quarter to 14 per cent in the second quarter. Eastern is expect-

it's good to talk



ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Key pointers to growth

A busy week for trackers of the British economy begins today with the publication of April figures for industrial costs and prices. Producer input prices are expected to have risen by 0.4 per cent in the month, depressing the annual rate of growth to 2.3 per cent from 2.8 per cent. The rate of output price inflation is expected, according to the consensus of market forecasts compiled by MMS International, to have dropped to 3 per cent from 3.4 per cent. Core output prices, excluding food, drink and tobacco, are seen dropping to 2.9 per cent year-on-year compared with 3.4 per cent in March.

Probably the key event this week comes tomorrow with publication of the Bank of England's latest inflation report. This is expected broadly to echo the February report, which said that the odds were on meeting the Government's inflation target, but which still urged caution on monetary policy.

On Wednesday, April unemployment figures are expected to show a fall of 10,000, while March average earnings annual growth is predicted to be unchanged at 3.5 per cent. On Thursday, April retail price figures are due. The market is expecting headline inflation to fall to 2.4 per cent from 2.7 per cent in March, but the underlying rate to remain unchanged at 2.9 per cent. RPIY, the measure which excludes mortgage interest payments and indirect taxes, is expected to edge lower to 2.5 per cent from 2.6 per cent. The last key British statistic of the week comes on Friday with the April public sector borrowing requirement. The MMS consensus is looking for a requirement of £3.1 billion.

Inflation is the key statistical theme around the world this week, with consumer prices data expected from America and France, among others. The markets will also be eagerly awaiting the figures on US retail sales tomorrow.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Allied Domecq, DCC, Flare Group, Racal; Hold Westminster Health Care. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Pearson, Kwik Save, Steel Burrill Jones, Greycoat, Oriol; Avoid Memory Corporation. Independent on Sunday: Buy Beazer Homes, Videologic, Premiere Group; Avoid Boots; Sell Vaux. The Mail on Sunday: Buy ED & F Man; Hold Chiroscience.

£10,000 WORTH OF PPP HEALTHCARE TO BE WON IN THE TIMES'S FREE PRIZE DRAW

Enjoy a free day at a health club

An introduction to a health club is an ideal way to start a fitter lifestyle and The Times, in association with PPP healthcare, is offering readers the chance to spend a free day at one of more than 120 leading health clubs.

If you take up our offer, you will automatically be entered into a free prize draw to win a PPP Fast-Lane Plan worth £200 and there are 50 to be won.

The Fast-Lane Plan is the latest in a range supporting positive health and has been designed specifically for people in the prime of life.

Typically, they are people who do not expect serious illness, yet are still vulnerable to injuries and problems that could affect their active and busy lifestyle: for them the new plan is ideal.

The plan aims to get you back on your feet quickly, with unrivalled standards of personal service giving immediate access to outpatient treatment such as physiotherapy and daycare surgery. It also gives you access to the PPP healthcare Health Information Line, putting you in touch with a team of healthcare professionals any time of the day or night free of charge.

Free annual eye tests and biennial health screens are also included.

When you visit one of the participating health clubs (the final part of our listing appears right, the first appeared on Saturday) you will become a member for the day, able to use all the facilities. These will include a gym, aerobics class, sauna, steam room, perhaps a swimming pool. Phone the club of your choice to book a day and time, then take the free voucher, below, when you go.

GET A FITNESS DISCOUNT After your free day, if you join in the Fast-Lane to Fitness programme, which is supported by PPP healthcare Fast-Lane Plan, you will get a special month's membership rate from the health club, receive a personal programme of activity and receive a "goody" bag.

The Fast-Lane to Fitness programme aims to encourage people to take a more positive attitude towards leading a healthy life by participating in 30 minutes of moderate activity five days a week. Research has shown that this level of activity significantly improves health.



Join the Fast-Lane to Fitness programme and get a personal activity plan

CHOOSE FROM THESE PARTICIPATING CLUBS

SOUTH EAST

- ARUNDEL, Stalks, Walberton, 01243 551215
AYLESBURY, 01296 330311
BASILDON, Club Kingswood, Sparrows Herne, 01268 522954
BEDFORD, Flexibility, Silver Street, 01234 346222
BRACKNELL, Stalks, Wokingham, 01734 772550
CAMBERLEY, Harpers, Pembroke Broadway, 01276 671661
CAMBRIDGE, Club Motivation, Bar Hill, 01954 249988
CHELMSFORD, Squash & Fitness Centre, Gloucester Avenue, 01245 494596
COPTHORNE, Copthorne The Club, W Sussex, 01342 718278; Effingham Park HC, Copthorne, 01342 714994
CRAWLEY, Cottasmore GCC, Pease Pottage, 01293 528256
DARTFORD, Stalks, Crossways Business Park, 01322 294444
DIDCOT, Harpers, Newlands Avenue, 01235 819686
FARNHAM, Harpers, Sports Centre, 01252 723208
GATWICK, LivingWell at Hilton, Gatwick Airport, 01293 527261
HARPENDEN, Harpers, Sports Centre, Rothamsted Park, 01582 765665
HIGH WYCOMBE, The Fitness Studio, Treadaway Will, 01628 532400
ILFORD, Apples HC, Newbury Park, 0181-518 0808
MAIDSTONE, Marriot Tudor Park, Bearstead, 01622 632007
MALDON, Five Lakes CC, Colchester Rd, 01621 862327
MILTON KEYNES, LivingWell, Aveybury Boulevard, 01908 668286
LivingWell at Hilton, Kents Hill, 01908 240422
NEWBURY, Stalks, Oxford Rd, Chieveley, 01835 247010
OLD WOKING, Chris Lane Tennis & CC, Westfield Ave, 01483

- 722113 OXFORD, Club Motivation, Wolvercote Roundabout, 01865 489988
PRINCES RISBOROUGH, Harpers, Wades Park, Stratton Rd, 01844 274200
READING, Club Motivation, Caversham Bridge, Richfield Ave, 01734 259988
SALISBURY, Harpers, Hulse Rd, 01722 339966



- Rd, 01452 519988
CHELTENHAM, Harpers, Cirencester Rd, Charlton Kings, 01242 257595
FERNDOWN, Dormy Leisure Club, New Rd, 01202 872121
GOSPORT, Miracles, Anglesey Rd, Alverstoke, 01705 601144
NYBRIDGE, Dinnaton Sporting & CC, Blackford Rd, Nr Plymouth, 01752 892512
SALISBURY, The Guildler Centre, Guildler Lane, 01722 421404
SOUTHAMPTON, LivingWell at Hilton, Bracken Place, Chilworth, 01703 769926
SWINDON, De Vere Leisure Club, Shaw Ridge Leisure Park, Whitehill Way, 01793 878785; LivingWell at Hilton, Lydford Fields, Great Western Way, 01793 410937

MIDLANDS

- BIRMINGHAM, LivingWell HC, Priory Queensway, B4, 0121-236 7789
CORBY, Stalks, Geddington Rd, 01536 401020
COVENTRY, LivingWell at Hilton, Walsgrave Triangle, 01203 841019
DUDLEY, Copthorne, Brierley Hill, 01384 482882
GRANTHAM, De Vere Belton Woods, Belton, 01476 79109
LOCKINGTON, LivingWell at Hilton, Derby Rd, 01509 674166
RUSHDEN, Harpers at Pemberton, HE Bates Way, 01933 50324
STAFFORD, Tillington Hall, Eccleshall Rd, 01785 253531
STOKE ON TRENT, Stalks, Trinity St, Hanley, 01782 202361
TELFORD, Club Motivation, Forgegate, Tetford Centre, 01952 429988; Club Motivation, Great Hay Drive, Sutton Hill, 01952 429977
WARWICK, LivingWell at Hilton, Junction 15, M40, 01926 483700
WISHAW, The Betty, 01675 470881ext. 771

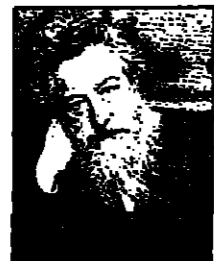
SOUTH WEST

- BOURNEMOUTH, Royal Bath Leisure Club, Bath Rd, 01202 555555
BRISTOL, Stalks, Woodlands Lane, Patchway, 01454 201144
BROCKWORTH, Club Motivation, Shurdlington

RULES AND CONDITIONS 1. Free visit available until June 15, 1996 and it automatically entitles you to entry to our free prize draw. 2. All readers must phone the club to book their visit in advance. 3. The offer is subject to availability. 4. Cut out the voucher and present it at the club when you make your appointment. 5. The voucher is only valid for one visit. 6. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. 7. There may be additional charges for beauty treatments. 8. It is advisable to confirm what facilities are included in the offer at the time of booking.

SEE OUR NEW FITNESS SERIES 'HERE COMES SUMMER', WHICH STARTS TODAY ON PAGE 16

ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



■ VISUAL ART The remarkable versatility of William Morris is captured in the V&A's centenary show...



■ THEATRE Curtain up in Chichester on Alan Bates in Simon Gray's Simply Disconnected...



■ MUSIC Fiddler supreme: the great Itzhak Perlman plays a recital at the Festival Hall...



■ CABARET Cybill Shepherd goes moonlighting on the jazz circuit at the Café Royal...

LONDON

CHORAL CLASSICS: Richard Hickox conducts the City of London Sinfonia...

BRUCKNER: This year's Leopold Moller Concert (7.30pm) is both a celebration of Austria's millennium...

WHAT NOW, LITTLE MANT? Ania Dancow plays the mother in a revival of Hans Fabiada's Kaiser Hans...

COMPANY: Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Schindler's Ark...

NEW RELEASES

EXECUTIVE DECISION (15): Good, silly fun on a tickled sitcom, with Kurt Russell, Hale Berry, and a consignment of nerve gas...

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Mizay

before Hitler's takeover, told in narrative and a cappella song, Marguerite Foyrth directs Alan Forsyth's production...

HOUSE FULL, returns only: Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

ELVIS: Sprung revival of the 20-year-old tribute show P.J. Proby plays the Vegas Elvis...

CINEMA GUIDE

EXECUTIVE DECISION (15): Good, silly fun on a tickled sitcom, with Kurt Russell, Hale Berry, and a consignment of nerve gas...

LONG RUNNERS

Blond Brothers Phoenix (0171-369 1735): Call: New London (0171-405 0072) ... Don't Dress for Dinner (0171-405 0072) ... The Musical (0171-405 0072) ...

Better than ever second time round

Operatic revival even better than the original - casting tweaked up a notch, staging significantly developed, lighting as painstaking as before...

OPERA Ariodante Coliseum

When David Alden's Ariodante production was new three years ago it was predictably controversial, but - for me - at least - devised a convincing 20th-century theatrical vocabulary...



Show-stopping performance: Ann Murray takes amazing risks with tone-colour and phrasing to explore Ariodante's character in detail

CONCERTS: The glorious sound of visitors from Vienna; plus, the RPO celebrates Czech music

Friday's visit by Riccardo Muti and the Vienna Philharmonic underlined something obvious but easy to overlook during an average London season...

Passionate voices

Sir Charles Mackerras's greatest service to Czech music has been in opening our ears to the voice of Janáček...

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES: Exhibition at HOLLAND & HOLLAND 31-33 Bruton Street, London W1...

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 622 8200 (24hr): ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Wed 7.30 PARSIFAL

THEATRE

ADOLPH BLOUAT: "ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERSHIP" Wed 8.30 Royal Opera House

THEATRE

GRASS: Starting Richard GLEN and BRUNA LALON in "Fast, furious, hitting & fun, fun, fun" Daily from 7.30pm

THEATRE

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL: "THE HOTTEST SHIT" NOW IN ITS 7TH SEASONAL YEAR

THEATRE

LONDON PALLADIUM BQCC: "Della Antoinette" Wed 8.30pm

THEATRE

OLD VIC 01753 7512 0334: "THE PETER HALL COMPANY" Directed by Michael Lindsay-Hogg

THEATRE

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 3400: "MARTIN GUERRE" A New Musical

THEATRE

ST MARTIN'S 0171 635 1443 (no box): "BUDDY" The Buddy Holly Story

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POP

Still life in the old grunge: Smashing Pumpkins blast their stuff in Brixton Academy

FILM

Shocking, or just a truthful portrait of teenage life? The controversial Kids comes to Britain

DANCE

Hot and Baroque: Trisha Brown and Company show the Brighton Festival how to move to Bach

OPERA

The new season at Glyndebourne opens with a radical staging of Handel's oratorio Theodora

ARTS TUESDAY TO FRIDAY IN SECTION 2

THEATRE

A hit at long last

SOMEWHERE in the Nevada Desert Eli Wallach is being honest with a journalist - from The Manchester Guardian, no less. The year is 1960 and the shooting of The Misfits (starring Marilyn Monroe, Clark Gable, Montgomery Clift and Wallach, screenplay by Arthur Miller, directed by John Huston) is about to go 40 days over schedule. Wallach says: "I've worked with drunks, pill-poppers, manic depressives and Tennessee Williams - and this film takes the biscuit."

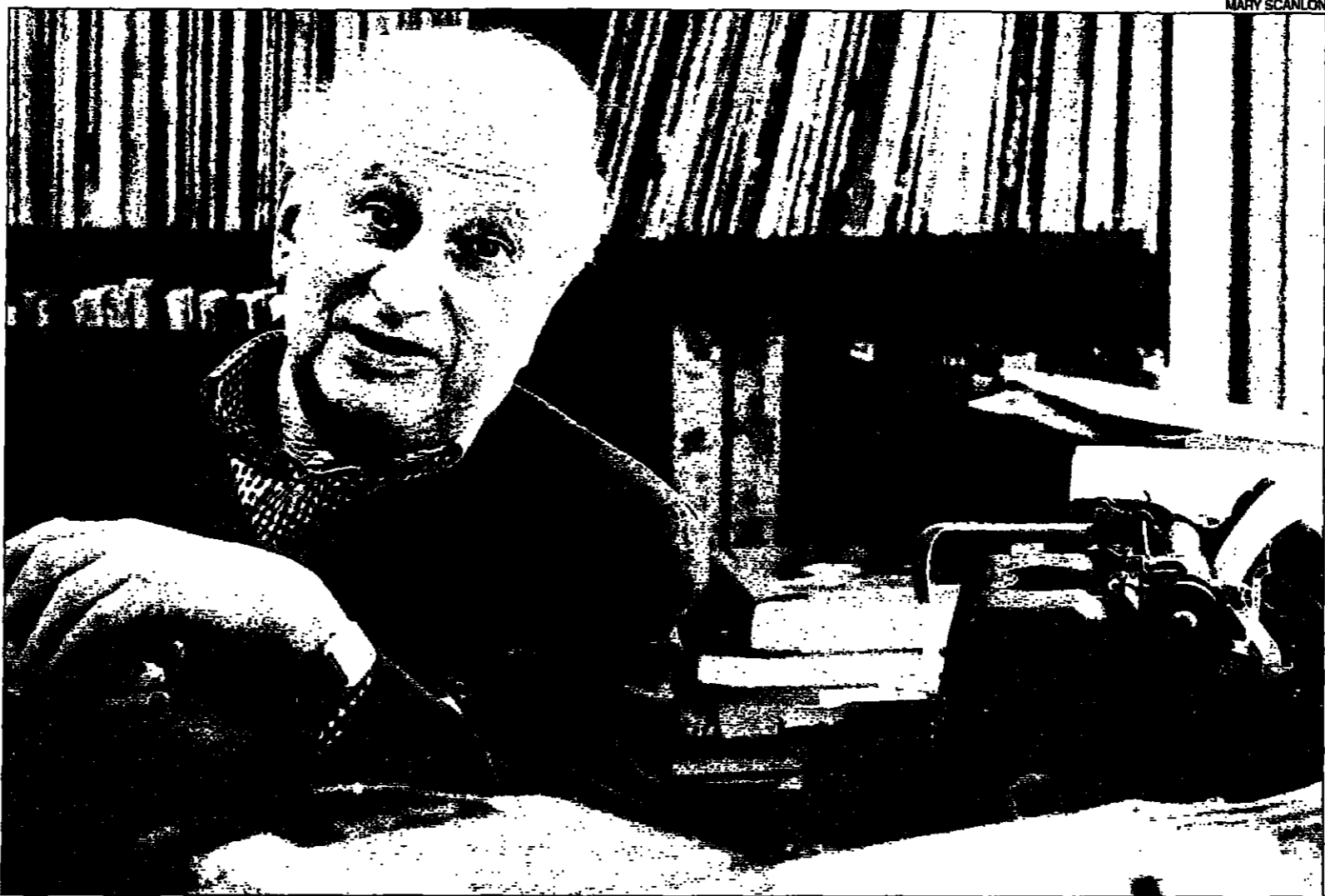
Misfits Manchester

with these hugely paid, fanatically adored neurotics comes clearly across. Over and above that I am not sure what her scenes do tell us. The film was nowhere near being a masterpiece, even if Gable's performance is said to have been his finest, so the play cannot usefully contrast the disorder of creation with the serenity of what it achieved. The screaming rows between Monroe and Miller supplement the details provided in his own After the Fall, but, though their conflict is a major element in the story, it is by no means the only one. Monroe herself, luminously played by Lisa Eichhorn, is the spine of the play; it opens with her discovering the desert, enthusing upon its emptiness with child-like delight, and speaking in a husky, breathy voice that is a remarkable recreation of the original. The play ends with another captiveness, this time a deserted sound-stage, where Christian Burgess's Miller watches her walk out of his life and the lights go off one by one. But if Finlayson's play is approached as being a look behind the scenes in MovieLand, she presents us with fascinating glimpses and numerous crisply witty lines. She creates dialogue appropriate to the eight real and variously well-known characters, and Gregory Hersov's cast bring them to vivid life: Ray Lonnen's tolerant, battered Gable; Stephen Yardley's wary, action-man Huston; Paola Dionisotti's Paula Strasberg (Marilyn's possibly baleful guru); Hersov's handling of the pace, breadth and tone of the scenes is sure and inventive. At the end the audience clapped for a long time.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Ann Scanlon meets Studs Terkel - writer, broadcaster and great oral historian of the American Way

Storyteller of the 20th century



"Attached and detached: being there and not being there": the Studs Terkel interviewing method that has served him pretty well for decades

Studs Terkel, Mr Chicago to his fellow citizens, is one of the greatest chroniclers of American life in the 20th century. Over the past three decades he has written eight oral history books which have given hundreds of men and women the opportunity to express their views on everything from the Great Depression to daily issues like work and race. His latest book is called Coming of Age: The Story of Our Century by Those Who've Lived It. "I got the idea for the book from an old guy," he says. "He pushed me against the wall and said: 'You're not moving until you agree to do your next book and I'll tell you what it's going to be about: people like you and me, scrapers who want to change this world. What have we got to lose?'"

In an age of marketing, where the one-eyed jack of youth is king, it is refreshing to read about the lives, hopes and dreams of people aged between 70 and 99, people who, Terkel feels, are "a reservoir of unexplored power and new astonishments". Throughout his work, Terkel has been instinctively drawn to the old man mourning for his lost neighbourhood: the disillusioned youth who once believed that the Garden of Eden was at the other end of the street; the laughing bag lady of indeterminate age. He knows that these people are blessed with a poetic understanding, able to say things in a way a writer never could.

"Dennis Mitchell did a British documentary called Morning in the Streets, about a working-class section of Manchester shortly after the war," he says. "The rubble was still there and it was just people talking. Beautiful! They spoke poetry - 'Mansions of the mind,' this one man said. Oh yes, there's poetry running the course of life."

Terkel speaks in a highly lyrical way himself and admits that he is more than ever "haunted by the waste of human beings" and lost opportunities. "I'm always thinking about what might have been," he says. "To me, the blues is all the things I wanted to do and never got around to doing. In some ways, the blues means 'if it's also nostos (nostalgia) - I could have been'."

Terkel, who turns 84 on Thursday, arrived in Chicago from New York's Bronx in 1920. The city quickly captured his heart and cured his asthma. His mother, Annie, ran a working men's hotel and he would sit in the lobby and listen to the guests' frequent arguments. "It was an informal, raffish kind of education," he says.

He completed his formal education at the University of Chicago, where he trained to be a lawyer. However, his future path had already been determined by the late-night music that drifted in through his window. "I remember the names: Lotie Hightower; Charlie Cooke. Black bands playing slow blues that they danced to on a dime. I loved that music then and forever, and later I became a disc jockey, playing folk music and jazz."

Terkel was instrumental in the rise of Big Bill Broonzy and Mahalia Jackson, who became lifelong friends. He considers himself fortunate to have known Billie Holiday. "Billie was something, with her gardenia in her hair," he says. "A friend of mine once said that a true artist reveals him or herself; the vulnerability of the artist becomes the vulnerability of the listener. When Billie sang Willow Weep for Me in front of ten people, we weren't weeping for her, we were weeping for ourselves. That's an artist."

Terkel hosted his own television programme, Studs Place, before being given a daily radio show in 1953, which he continues to host today. He is currently organising tapes of the 9,000 people he has interviewed on it, ranging from uncelebrated men and women to famous names such as Dorothy Parker, Tennessee Williams, Federico Fellini, Gore Vidal, Simone de Beauvoir and Nelson Algren, who was Terkel's close friend and literary hero. "You know Nelson's credo, doncha?" he asks. "Never play cards with a man named Doc, never eat at a place called Mom's and never sleep with a woman whose troubles are worse than your own." Of course, he violated it. He went to bed with Simone de Beauvoir. He was rough, he was kind of a cad, but he was quite wonderful.

Unlike Algren, who could shut away even his most haunting characters in some lonely tavern at the darkest end of his imagination, the people Terkel writes about are with him for keeps. "If they're in the book, I get a piece of them, but they feel they own a piece of me," he says. "It's hard not to get caught up in their lives. But, if you do, you'll die."

Shropshire lad remembered

Richard Morrison on 100 years of A.E. Housman's great collection



Housman: won a huge public with his poems

Few poetry collections establish themselves so swiftly or so deeply in a nation's affections as A.E. Housman's A Shropshire Lad. Published (at Housman's own expense) exactly 100 years ago, it contains 63 exquisitely crafted pastoral lyrics in which the unchanging cycle of life in rural England is counterpointed against the sombre tread of boys marching away to fight and die in distant corners of the globe. Love is weighed against betrayal, beauty against mortality; Housman tapped into classic poetic preoccupations, but did so with a narrative simplicity that won him a huge public. How realistically the poems depict 19th-century Shropshire life is a moot point. Housman was actually a Worcestershire lad, so even in boyhood his "blue remembered hills" were more a landscape of the imagination than of close observation. When he came to London as a clerk (his genius as a classical scholar not yet noticed) an almost pathological loneliness caused him to recreate those hills in his mind as a "land of lost content"; a safe anchorage of comfort and eternal verities in a sea of doubt and distress.

That enabled him to express, at one remove through his poetry, the turbulent emotions that he found impossible to articulate in real life: he was never able to form close relationships. What seems extraordinary in retrospect, however, is how precisely this specific emotional condition anticipates, some 20 years before the event, the anguished fatalism of so many young men sent to fight in the First World War. It was said

with Robert Tear as the robust tenor soloist. In its orchestral version (the accompaniment was originally for piano quintet) the music can sound too florid and overblown for the wry, epigrammatic style of much of the text. But Rattle kept the textures tightly controlled and the phrasing fluid, and the work sounded gorgeously evocative and utterly convincing. Then came George Butterworth's orchestral fantasy, A Shropshire Lad. It is one of the greatest miniatures in English music, perhaps in all music: nobility and tragedy intermingled in a composition of incredible harmonic richness. And the fact that Butterworth was killed on the Somme at the age of 31, just three years after writing the work, clearly gives it extra poignancy. Although there are many more Shropshire Lad events planned in Ludlow, London and Oxford for this centenary year - talks, walks, seminars, recitals and the premiere of some newly commissioned Housman settings - nothing is likely to touch the heart more than this: the sound of Butterworth's subtly sad music echoing like an elegy round the old stones that Housman loved and immortalised.

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

COUPERIN'S COMPLETE HARPSICORD MUSIC by Graham Sadler

To record all Couperin's pieces de clavecin (250 plus) must be a daunting prospect. The composer issued a stern rebuke to those who failed to observe his minutest articulation mark. At the same time, the music demands a high degree of imaginative freedom to penetrate the ornamental facade and reach the levels of psychological insight required to evoke Couperin's subtle world. The search for this freedom often causes problems. Blandine Verlet (Astrée Auvédis) tends to adopt a degree of rhythmic licence that amounts to distortion. Far more sympathetic is Kenneth Gilbert, recorded in the 1980s but still sounding fresh, and



informed throughout by Gilbert's unsurpassed good taste. At bargain price (Harmonia Mundi HMA 90351-360) it is superb value. A rival in that price range is the set by Olivier Baumont (Musifrance 0630-10738-2): sparkling in the livelier movements, but too mannered in the gentler pieces. Baumont's playing is better sampled on a one-disc compilation (Erato 0630-11471-2, mid-price) - much the best anthology currently available. But no one equals Christophe Rousset. The strength and exuberance of his playing are a powerful antidote to the view that Couperin's keyboard output consists of effeminate trifles. Rousset is a player of extremes. But the best of his playing is outstanding, and this version (Harmonia Mundi HMC 901 442-452, three 3-CD sets, £35 each) may be confidently recommended.

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times CD Mail to 29 Pall Mall Deposit, Barby Road, London W10 6BL or freephone 0500 418419; e-mail: htd@mail.bogo.co.uk

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By The Guardian

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE May 11: The Princess Royal, Patron, Northern Lighthouse Board, today visited Fair Isle North and South Lighthouses on board MV Finlay and was received by Ian Fraser (Deputy Lieutenant of Shetland).

Birthdays today

Sir Crispin Agnew of Lochnaw, explorer and herald, 52; Mr Dirk Aldous, Chief Constable, Dorset, 52; Mr W.A. Allen, deputy director, monetary analysis, Bank of England, 47; Miss Bea Arthur, actress, 71; Sir John Cope, MP, 59; Miss Ellen Dix, theatrical designer, 65; Mr M.W.R. Dobson, group chief executive, Morgan Grenfell Group, 44; Lord Dorman, 76; Mr Robert Earnshaw, racehorse trainer, 37; Mr Peter Gabriel, singer, 46; General John Galvin, former Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, 67; Dr Jane Glover, conductor, 47; Sir John Habakkuk, former MP, 79; the Earl of Perth, 89; Mr Tim Pigott-Smith, actor, 50; Sir Alfred Pugsley, civil engineer, 93; Mr Alan Rayfield, former Governor, Long Lartin prison, 60; Miss Selina Scott, broadcaster, 45; Miss Helen Sharman, astronaut, 33; Sir Conrad Swan, genealogist, 72; Marquess Townshend, 80; Sir William Uting, former Chief Inspector, Social Services Inspectorate, 46; Miss Zoe Wanamaker, actress, 47; Mr Steve Wonder, singer, 46.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Windsor and Maidenhead District Sports Association for the Disabled and open a new extension to the clubhouse at Braywick Sports Ground, Maidenhead, at 12.30, as President and Honorary Life Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, will attend a reception to launch the William Shipley Appeal at St James's Palace at 7. The Princess of Wales, as Patron of the International Spinal Research Trust, attends the send-off of Push 2000 at Kensington Palace at 11. The Duke of Kent, as Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, will visit Automotive Products, Techbrook Road, Leamington Spa, at 10.45; will visit Lymington, Gosport Lane, Swift Rugby, at 12.05; and will open the new School House, Rugby School, Rugby, at 1.

Memorial service

Mr Simon Nowell-Smith A service to commemorate the life of Mr Simon Nowell-Smith, writer, collector and librarian, will be held on Saturday in New College Chapel, Oxford. The Rev Dr Robert Harman officiated. Mrs Elizabeth Campbell, daughter, read the lesson. Sir Charles Chadwyck-Healey read from William Penn's The Comfort of Friends and Mr John Nowell-Smith, son, read Thomas Hardy's poem, Afterwards. Dr Julian Roberts, Deputy Librarian of the Bodleian Library, Professor William Freeman and Mr Geoffrey Nowell-Smith, son, gave addresses.

Nature notes

REDSTARTS are singing in the oak trees of the West Country; they deliver a short snatch of song, like a robin that keeps starting and never finishes. The male has a jet black mask, a red breast and a red tail. Tree pipits are singing and displaying on heaths and woodlands edges; they make a few rippling notes as they fly up into the air from a tall tree, then a richer, burst of notes as they parachute down again. In starlings' nests, the young are starting to make loud chirping calls, and both parents fly frantically to and fro collecting food for them. The flowers of May are slowly beginning to open. The bright pink flowers and hairy leaves of red campion are appearing under the hedges, alongside the smaller pink flowers of herb-robert. In ditches, the hooded



The redstart singer in the oak trees



Gwen Cooper, Tommy Cooper's widow, wearing his trademark fez, jokes with Norman Wisdom after he unveiled a blue plaque to the comic magician's memory

Comic hero recalled

THE comic magician Tommy Cooper and his place in the public's hearts, were recalled yesterday when a blue plaque was unveiled at Teddington Studios, southwest London, where Cooper, with his shambling gait, failed



In praise of Guy's nurses

SOME of the last nurses trained at Guy's Hospital School of Nursing in London were among the congregation who attended a service of thanksgiving for Guy's nurses at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday. The service paid tribute to the kindness and dedication of thousands of nurses who have passed through the doors of the school since it was opened in 1880. In its early days last century the food was rough and hours were long. A trainee nurse was expected to work ten-hour day shifts or 12-hour night shifts. Nurses would be taught only in the wards;

there was nowhere else. The school became part of a new training college, the Nightingale Institute, when Guy's merged with St Thomas' Hospital in 1993. Canon Helen Cunliffe, Canon Pastor, welcomed 1,200 people from all over the country who had travelled to show their appreciation and express their thanks to the work of the nurses through the decades. Staff Nurse Laura Jenkins, who had received her coveted Guy's Badge on Friday, gave a Bible reading from Ecclesiasticus, Chapter 44, verses 1-15 which begins: "Let us now praise famous men, the fathers of our people in the generations." When Ms Jen-

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr John Neiligan and Mr Richard Price to the Circuit Judges, assigned to the Western Circuit.

Mr S. Michael D. Brown to be a member of the Council on Tribunals for three years from May 1.

Knighthoods

The honour of knighthood is to be conferred on Mr Roger Grenfell Toulson, QC, and Mr Robert Franklin Nelson, QC, on their appointments as Justices of the High Court.

Luncheon

English-Speaking Union Valerie Mitchell, Director-General of the English-Speaking Union, received the guests at a luncheon given by the union at St Paul's Girls' School on Saturday before the national final of The Observer-ESU Schools Public Speaking Competition. In the evening Baroness Brigstocke, Chairman of the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth, received the competition judges and guests at dinner at St Paul's Girls' School.

Service dinners

The Waggon Club Major-General W. Bate, President of the Waggon Club, presided at a twenty-fifth anniversary annual meeting and members' dinner May 2 at the club held on Saturday

Museum will trace history of Holocaust

By JOHN YOUNG

A NEW permanent exhibition on the Holocaust, which Churchill called "the most horrible crime committed in the whole history of the world", will open in 1999 at the Imperial War Museum in London. The 1,400 square metres of display space on two floors will occupy part of the third and final stage of the museum's extension, at present being designed by Arup Associates and expected to cost more than £13 million. It will provide visiting students with a full narrative account of the tragedy, which is now on the national schools curriculum. The story will begin with the Weimar Republic and the rise of Nazism, and go on to describe the anti-Jewish measures in Hitler's Germany; prewar attempts by Jews to emigrate; war and internment; the extermination camps; resistance, including the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising; and the eventual liberation of the camps and the exposure of the horrors to the world. The question of whether more could have been done to save the Jews will also be explored. The exhibits will include much original film footage and, it is hoped, one of the railway cars used in the deportations. There will also be documents, posters, cartoons, paintings, pamphlets and newspapers, many of which have not been on display in Britain before. Visitors will be able to inspect contemporary maps, passports and visas, high-level official correspondence relating to the situation in occupied Europe. In a message to the museum the Prime Minister described the Holocaust as an event of unparalleled evil. There were still many survivors in Britain; their testimonies would be part of the exhibition's strength, John Major said. Among the exhibition's patrons are Lord Bullock, a leading historian of the Holocaust, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, and his predecessor, Lord Runcie. Cardinal Basil Home, Archbishop of Westminster, Lord Jakobovits, the former Chief Rabbi, and the present Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, Lord Rothschild, Lord Sainsbury and Lord Weidenfeld.

Marriages

Viscount Folkestone and Miss A.M. Stanford The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Etheldreda, Gulsborough, Northampton, of Viscount Folkestone, eldest son of the Earl of Radnor and of Lady Cox, to Miss Melissa Stanford, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Stanford. Canon William Gibbs officiated. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Jake Goodhuiss, India Rose Smith, Thomas Lorimer, Grace Carter, Ludo Watson, Kitty Faulkner and Jamie, Clare and Lara Freydel-Bourvier. Mr Angus Gibson was best man. A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Dr C.D. Arden and Miss N.J.P. Clarke The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Nicholas, Old Shoreham, West Sussex, of Dr Christopher Arden, younger son of the Right Rev Donald and Mrs Arden, of Pinner, Middlesex, to Miss Nadine Clarke, only daughter of Commander and Mrs David Clarke, of Seven Kings, Essex. The Right Rev Donald Arden, father of the bridegroom, officiated. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Harriet Crofton, Miss Elizabeth Dack, Miss Deborah Ruwald, Miss Charlotte Astop and Miss Clare Halsley. Mr Bazil Arden was best man. A reception was held at the Anchor Inn, Barcombe, Lewes, and the honeymoon will be spent in San Francisco.

Mr J.J. Jardine Paterson and Miss A.J.C. Ryan The marriage took place on Saturday in the Royal Memorial Chapel, RMA Sandhurst, of Mr Jonathan Jardine Paterson, son of Sir John and Lady Jardine Paterson, of Norton Bavant, Wiltshire, to Miss Amanda Ryan, daughter of Major-General and Mrs Denis Ryan, of Rutlinghope, Shropshire. The Rev Alistair Heagerty officiated. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by George Benner, Laura Clifton-Brown, Nicholas Galman, Hamish Graham, William Howes and Edwina Wright, Mr Dominic Griffith was best man. A reception was held in the Indian Army Memorial Room and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr G.C. Burke and Miss N. March The engagement is announced between Gavin, son of Mr and Mrs M. Burke, of Maldon, Essex, and Naomi, daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Richmond and Gordon, of Molecomb, Goodwood, Sussex.

Mr H.J. Pinnau and Miss E.M.A. Noel The engagement is announced between Henry, eldest son of Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Pinnau and Mrs Andrew Parker Bowles, and Elizabeth, only daughter of the Hon Gerard and Mrs Noel.

Forthcoming marriages

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Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: Dante Alighieri, poet, Florence, 1265; Alphonse Daudet, writer, Nîmes, 1840; Sir Arthur Sullivan, composer, London, 1842; Sir Frank Brangwyn, painter, Bruges, 1867; Sir Ronald Ross, bacteriologist, Nobel laureate 1902, Almorá, India, 1857; Georges Braque, Cubist, Argenteuil, France, 1882; Daphne Du Maurier, novelist, London, 1907; Joe Louis, world heavyweight boxing champion 1937-49, Lexington, Alabama, 1914. DEATHS: Baron Georges Cuvier, zoologist and statesman, Paris, 1832; John Nash, architect, Cowes, 1835; Shalom Aleichem (Solomon J. Rabinowitz), Yiddish and Hebrew writer, New York, 1916; Alfred Milner, Viscount Milner, imperialist, Sturvy Court, near Canterbury, 1925; Fridtjof Nansen, Norwegian explorer and statesman, Nobel Peace laureate, 1922; Lysaker, Norway, 1930; Frances Hodgkins, artist, Dorchester, 1947; Gary Cooper, actor, Los Angeles, 1961. The first permanent English settlement in America was established at Jamestown, Virginia, 1607. The German economy totally collapsed, 1927. Italian and German forces in Africa surrendered, 1943. Pope John Paul II survived an assassination attempt by a Turkish gunman in St Peter's Square, 1981.

DEATHS: Baron Georges Cuvier, zoologist and statesman, Paris, 1832; John Nash, architect, Cowes, 1835; Shalom Aleichem (Solomon J. Rabinowitz), Yiddish and Hebrew writer, New York, 1916; Alfred Milner, Viscount Milner, imperialist, Sturvy Court, near Canterbury, 1925; Fridtjof Nansen, Norwegian explorer and statesman, Nobel Peace laureate, 1922; Lysaker, Norway, 1930; Frances Hodgkins, artist, Dorchester, 1947; Gary Cooper, actor, Los Angeles, 1961.

ROYAL AIR FORCE GROUP CAPTAIN: R M Thomas to RAF Linton-on-Ouse, 16.5.96; T P Brewer to HQ LC, 13.5.96. WING COMMANDER: G K Wingham to HQ LC London, 6.5.96; B D Harcourt to HQ LC London, 7.5.96; P Thow to HQ LC London, 7.5.96; A Humphries to HQ LC Brampton, 13.5.96. RETIREMENTS: GROUP CAPTAIN: C J McQuillan, 15.5.96.

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THE TIMES MONDAY OBITUARIES

NEWS

University degrees' status at risk

A British Ivy League of elite universities is beginning to emerge as foreign governments operate 'whitelists' of campuses to which they are prepared to send students.

Four years after the Government uprated polytechnics to create a single higher education system, such lists are combining with developments at home to threaten the equal status traditionally accorded to all degrees.

Crash pilot may have been dead

The crew of an ageing DC-9 airliner may have been dead or unconscious before their jet plunged into the Florida Everglades killing all 109 on board, including two British tourists.

Tax cuts in doubt

Kenneth Clarke has given his toughest warning yet that he may not be able to deliver tax cuts this autumn after claiming that the beef crisis had cost the Government at least £1 billion.

Police ready for fans

Police mounted a massive operation to control 80,000 fans at Saturday's FA Cup Final, determined to avoid trouble at a dress rehearsal for next month's Euro 96 championship.

£40m for Albert Hall

The Albert Hall, home of the Proms, is expected to receive £40 million of lottery money this week from the Arts Council and the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

Off with their anoraks

Affluent rail enthusiasts are shedding their dowdy 'anorak' image at a £125-a-night hotel where they can train-spot in pampered comfort.

Pesticide on trial

Forty British families whose children were born without eyes are awaiting the outcome of a test case in America that will determine whether a garden pesticide caused the deformity in a six-year-old boy.

Unstinting cat lover

A woman who has devoted the past five years to the welfare of cats in Greece has spent the last of her savings to bring 37 of them back to Britain.

Refugees find relief

Thousands of dying and sick Lib-berian refugees on board a disease-riddled, leaking freighter at last found relief after a week at sea.

Far from the stars

A Cambridge student whose first screenplay has been snapped up is having to sit it out in his digs while his producers promote his work at the Cannes Film Festival.

Family man or killer?

The memorabilia in the household of Dusan Tadic, on trial for war crimes at The Hague, seem incongruous with that of a killer.

Pressure for gun laws

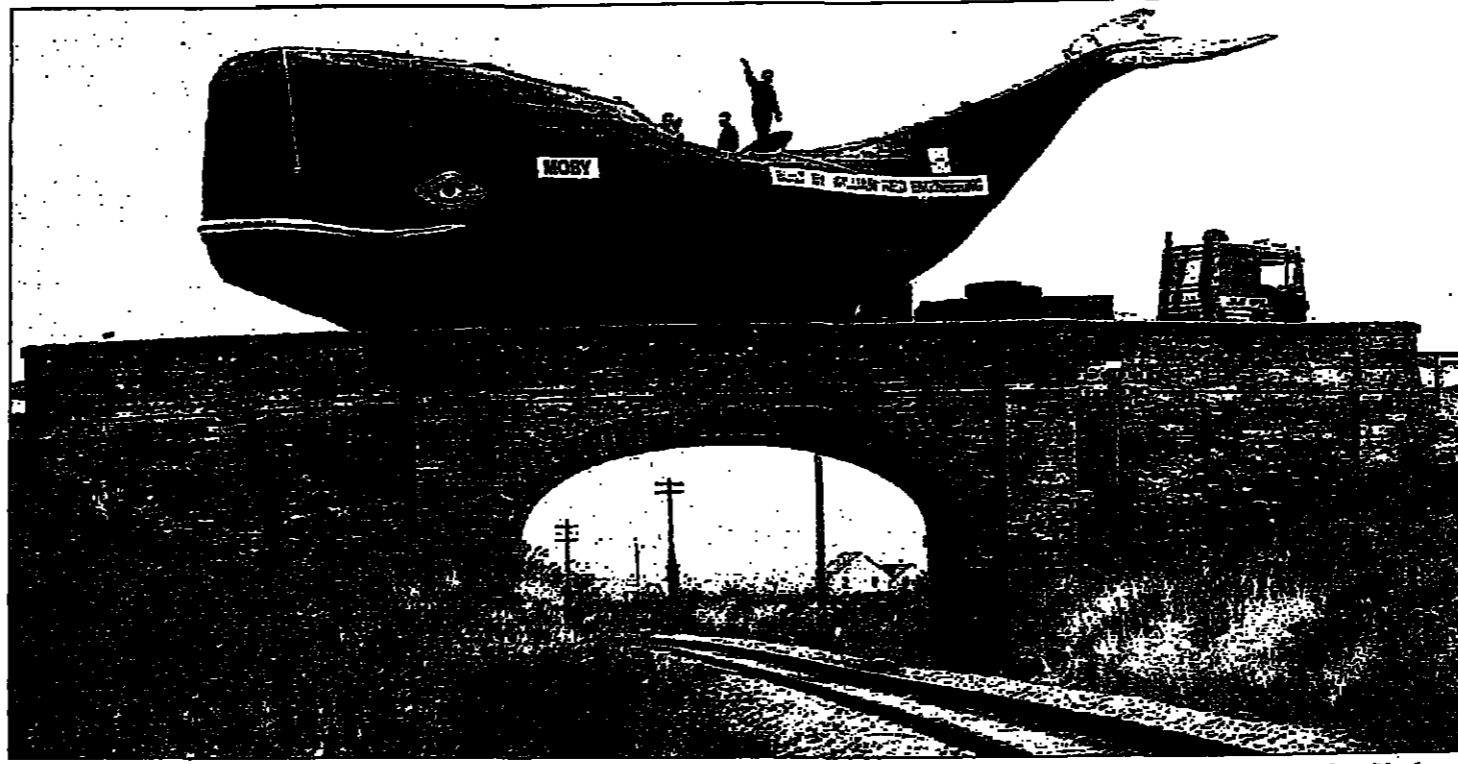
Ministers are under pressure from senior Conservative MPs to bring forward laws on gun control.

Lebanon 'failure'

Right-wing opposition parties in Israel branded the Labour Government's 17-day military onslaught on Lebanon a failure.

Lads playing football badly

For those to whom the names Damon, Jarvis and Liam mean nothing, it was as if The Beatles, the Rolling Stones and The Who were playing football together in 1965.



Moby at Kinloss, Moray, on her way to the sea. Tom McClean, the first to row the Atlantic solo, aims to sail her to New York

BUSINESS

Post ballot: The chief executive of the Post Office urges workers to reject strike action and offers the prospect of more money.

ARTS

Better than ever: The English National Opera revival of David Alden's production of Ariadne proves to be even better second time around.

FEATURES

Eating right: Anjana Ahuja on how scientists are beginning to understand the influence of food on behaviour.

SPORT

Football: Cantona — the man, the magic and the winning moment: how Manchester United's unparalleled double-double was made possible.

Berings quiz: The executives running Berings at the time of the £800 million crash will give the first public account of how and why they failed to detect Nick Leeson's fraudulent trading.

Vietnamese treat: The Vienna Philharmonic came to London and proved that it has a uniquely luxurious sound.

Smoke screen: Nigel Hawkes on research suggesting an enzyme may have something to do with who gets lung cancer.

Athletics: Linford Christie gave a performance of Olympic quality with his opening race of the outdoor season.

Base rates to rise? A resurgence in consumer confidence could prompt a sharp rise in base rates to 8 1/2 per cent by the end of 1997.

Brilliant storyteller: Studs Terkel, one of the greatest chroniclers of 20th-century American life, talks about his latest book.

Underlying story: On Wednesday, the winner will be announced of the first all-women prize for fiction.

Equestrianism: Tim Stockdale brought the Royal Windsor Horse Show to a fitting climax with victory in the grand prix.

Silicon valley: Korea's Lucky Goldstar electronics company is poised to announce a £1 billion investment in South Wales, creating 4,000 jobs.

Musical centenary: Shropshire celebrates the centenary of A.E. Housman's A Shropshire Lad, with help from Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

Edging closer: For the first time since Gordon Wilson died, his widow talks of her tragedies.

Football: Buoyant Crystal Palace beat Charlton in the first leg of the first division play-off semi-final.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FLYING THE FLAG: Mike Leigh leads the British contingent at Cannes with his new film Secrets and Lies.

DO AS I SAY: Giving evidence can be terrifying. Should witnesses be prepared by experts?

LOTTERY NUMBERS

7, 10, 12, 22, 34, 48. Bonus 11. Eight winners will get £1,115,190 each.

TV LISTINGS

Preview: One family claims as distant cousins both Baroness Thatcher and John Major. In the Blood: Lost Tribes (BBC2, 8pm).

OPINION

Premier divisions: By encouraging an elite that cleaves to traditional methods, the excellence which attracts students from the world over can best be preserved.

Visite cordiale

Friends should be able to differ, and Britain and France are learning to be friends again.

Don't miss the bus

The only wonder the young find in trains is wondering how late they will run.

COLUMNS

PETER RIDDELL

The framework of a written constitution is being created... but there are no clear principles of accountability and no agreement on who should safeguard the new rules.

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

If Ian Hargreaves, the Editor of the New Statesman, succeeds, his magazine will be the arena of intellectual debate.

MATTHEW PARRIS

No moral reasoning was advanced in favour of a ban on gays in the Armed Forces. The case was that attitudes among servicemen and women were such that to relax the ban would cause unacceptable discontent.

OBITUARIES

Herbert Brownell, Attorney-General in the Eisenhower Administration; Bela de Csillery, conductor and music administrator.

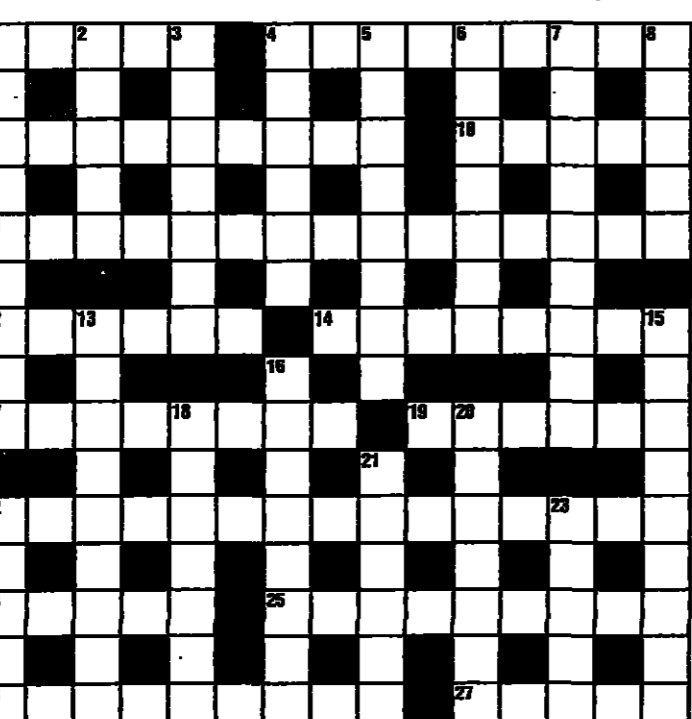
LETTERS

Police complaints: threats of over-fishing.

THE PAPERS

The Kremlin and the Russian centrist parties are united by their desire to avoid a Communist victory in the Presidential election.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,166



- ACROSS: 1 Vote with Opposition party (5). 2 Woman alarmed about daughter being rejected (9). 9 Laird's new translation accepted by poet (9). 10 In a yacht, it's curiously indistinct in outline (5). 11 Get involved in single broadcast, and achieve fulfilment? (4,4,4,3). 12 Plant a tree on lake (6). 14 Agreed wages for making immobilizing device (3-5). 17 Current strength a wise man shows by intervening (8). 19 Divers representatives have dismissed leader (6). 22 A charm Sarah made? Crazy — totally crazy! (3,2,1,5,4). 24 Quiet little mischief-maker — one holding up books, perhaps (5). 25 Dark academic dress that's worn when retiring (9).

FORECAST

General: Early-morning mist or patchy fog clears, should have a dry day with considerable sunny periods. Cloud will tend to build up during the afternoon, but it should remain dry.

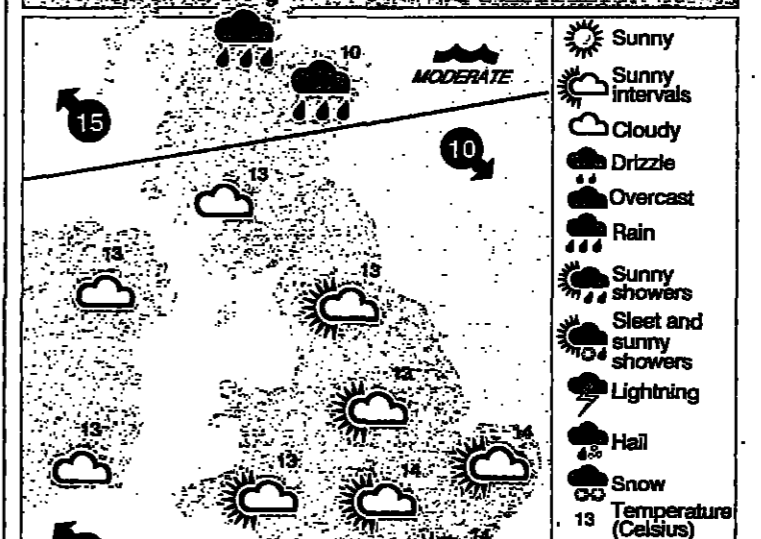
AROUND BRITAIN, YESTERDAY

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, max, min, wind, and other weather details for various UK locations.

FORECAST

E England, W Midlands, Wales, NW, Cent N, NE England: early mist or fog clearing, dry with clear or sunny periods.

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: low V will edge SE with little change to central pressure; high Z will extend E towards Scandinavia and maintain central pressure.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table showing highest and lowest temperatures for various UK locations.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing hours of darkness for various UK locations.

HIGH TIDES

Table showing high tide times for various UK locations.

ABROAD

Table showing weather forecasts for various international locations.

Times Two Crossword, page 44

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available.

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Large advertisement for 'Test-tu docto HIV' with various headlines like 'Chirac praise for Britain', 'Ceasefire hope', and 'TV & RADIO WEATHER CROSSWORDS'.